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Counselor Comments on President's Initiative

MK0602111592 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 5 Feb 92 p 1

[Interview with Ye. Velikhov, Russian presidential counselor, at the United Nations in New York by MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS special correspondent Ravil Zaripov; date not given: "Friendship Is Friendship, But Warheads Are Something Else. What Is Mutual Defense"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] A key point in Russian President Boris Yeltsin's statement at the UN Security Council session was his proposal to form a global world defense system. "It could be based on reorienting the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative and using advanced technologies developed by Russia's defense complex."

Our special correspondent Ravil Zaripov met Academician Yevgeniy Velikhov, the Russian president's counselor, at the UN building and asked him to comment on the president's initiative.

[Velikhov] I think that it is a question of our coming to the negotiating table and being able to agree among ourselves what is rational and what is irrational. The situation in the world has changed. When we were suspicious of one another and were preparing destruction within half an hour, any kind of defense was destabilizing. If we are now coming to a point where we become allies and cease targeting one another, mutual defense is sensible then. But there is the question of what kind of defense.

If we are talking about ground-based defense, this should be discussed, and we have been successful in this area. We are now advertising for sale the once-secret S-300 system developed by Academician Bunkin.

The situation with space is different. I think that the use of monitoring and joint early warning of the possible appearance of a delivery vehicle in the atmosphere, let alone in space, is very useful. There is indeed a paradoxical situation now: Russia itself no longer has an early-warning system since many of the elements of the system are located in other independent states. Thus this system has already become an international one, and it is worth developing it to full international status.

If we are talking about putting weapons into space, I take a negative view of this. As of 1983, for almost 10 years now, we scientists and parliamentarians have been restraining the military from putting weapons in space. Incidentally, Boris Nikolayevich's proposals talk about destroying all antisatellite weapons. This proposal should go hand in hand with a corresponding treaty.

[Zaripov] But if we destroy antisatellite weapons, the above system will be only a warning and not a defense system. Yet ground-based weapons [sredstva] are not that effective.

[Velikhov] Why do you think that? Ground-based systems have long since proved their limited, but definite capabilities. Space-based weapons have as yet demonstrated nothing. In my view, we should refrain from developing a space-based system. It is not only a question of cost. It is always hard to tell when we start filling a new medium with weapons how this will end. One can see very well today how hard it is to get rid of weapons on land, in the air, and at sea. We have produced 100 times more weapons than we need and we are now confronted with the question of how to destroy them. Many countries today are in practice capable of putting installations into space, and if we start putting weapons into space we will not be able to straighten it out [razobratsya] later. Mutual mistrust among nations will increase.

[Zaripov] The British have said that they cannot cut back strategic nuclear weapons, abiding by the principle of reasonable sufficiency. Did you take part in those conversations?

[Velikhov] I spoke to Boris Nikolayevich about this and told him that his reaction was the right one. At this stage events should not be complicated. We can agree with the British and let them think it out for themselves.

[Zaripov] Is this a political decision or the effective state of affairs?

[Velikhov] There are differing views even within Britain. My view is that Britain does not need the Poseidons or Tridents at all. In my view, there is a somewhat different question here. There is still a political aspect to this—the fight for the title of nuclear power and permanent member of the Security Council.

[Zaripov] You may think my question couched in the Cold War spirit, but are we not losing our political image and clout in the international arena by embarking on global cuts?

[Velikhov] From the viewpoint of common sense, we are not saying that we will cut weapons to zero. However, one must bear in mind here that given the real situation neither Britain, nor we, nor the United States can use nuclear weapons. These weapons are needed to ensure that some country cannot terrorize and put political pressure on the world community. That is, they are needed until a reasonable world order is established and emotions subside. It is hard to predict. Perhaps nuclear weapons will become extinct all of a sudden. Today there is consensus that some level of weaponry is needed. We are suggesting 2,000-2,500 warheads. I think that there could be even fewer if they were correctly structured. The Americans still do not agree with this. They are suggesting something in the region of 4,700 warheads. It is no coincidence that I am talking about warheads rather than missiles, because a state of stability is defined by an equal number of warheads. And we need to move in this direction.

Nazarbayev Evaluates U.S.-Russian Meeting

LD0602143292 Moscow TASS in English 1502 GMT 6 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Smelov]

[Text] Vienna February 6 TASS—In an interview published in the Austrian newspaper DIE PRESSE today, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan said his republic champions the abolition of all nuclear weapons on its territory and the termination of nuclear tests.

Asked to evaluate the recent meeting between U.S. and Russian Presidents George Bush and Boris Yeltsin in Washington, Nazarbayev said "in the issue of nuclear disarmament, Yeltsin speaks not on our behalf" and this should be clear to the West.

"None of the Commonwealth leaders knows on what foundation Yeltsin and Bush have reached an accord." In addition, Nazarbayev thinks what was discussed in Washington can be described only as "an initiative, which is far from a final agreement".

According to Nazarbayev, if one considers today's disarmament proposals, the U.S. has the significant advantage in relation to the other side: a three-to-one advantage, what we can not accept.

Nazarbayev believes there should be parity in nuclear warheads between the Commonwealth and the U.S. "We cannot agree to being put in the disadvantaged position". He stressed he would bring his point of view to Bush's knowledge during a meeting in Washington, which is scheduled to take place in the next few months, and also to the knowledge of Yeltsin.

Asked how to interpret the notions "common" and "independent" as applied to the Commonwealth, Nazarbayev answered that the strategic arsenal of the former Soviet Union is the common problem. However, each individual republic exercises control over conventional armed forces and can pursue its own policy.

Regarding the future of the Commonwealth, Nazarbayev emphasised the Commonwealth "is neither a state nor a super-state". It emerged on a voluntary basis as "the only sensible compromise for the future of the previously integrated economies." He expressed hope that a "supranational coordination" would be created within the Commonwealth similar to the one which is in effect in the European Community, because anything different would only mean "a form without a reality".

Nazarbayev can well imagine the formation of a commonwealth of Turkic states linked with Turkey in future. If there exists ASEAN and the EC, an alliance of states grouping the Turkic peoples can well be formed. This unification is not at odds with the principles agreed-upon by the Commonwealth at the Alma-Ata meeting last year, Nazarbayev said.

He stressed Kazakhstan was an important connecting link between Europe and Asia at one time. The republic intends to assume this role again in future.

Proposal Described as 'Promising, Extraordinary'

PM0602160592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Feb 92 p 1

[Report by ITAR-TASS Military Observer A. Naryshkin under the "Direct Line" rubric: "The World Will Be More Stable and Safer for All"]

[Text] "A promising, extraordinary, and bold step in the disarmament sphere," is how Lieutenant General Valeriy Manilov, chief of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] Armed Forces Information Directorate, described the Russian president's statement on the state's policy in the arms limitation and reduction sphere.

As he noted in an interview with your ITAR-TASS observer, the idea of designing, creating, and jointly operating a global antimissile defense system, which was viewed positively during the Russian-U.S. top level talks at Camp David, is particularly attractive. The realization of such an approach, the general noted, could clearly provide far more reliable guarantees of international security than the elaboration of any national program, including the U.S. SDI. If, after joint and equivalent [paritetnyy] reductions the strategic missiles of the United States and the CIS are not aimed at cities and other civilian targets and if radical reductions of these essentially irrational weapons are made down to complete elimination, based on the principles of reciprocity, of course, and involving all the members of the nuclear club, the world will be far more stable and secure for all, Valeriy Manilov said.

It will obviously take time for the Russian president's initiatives, like any political document of this scale, to gain specific military-technical content. The search for the specific forms in which they are to be embodied and the elaboration of a legal base and implementation and verification mechanisms will be conducted during consultations and talks at all levels—head of state and military expert levels. It will be difficult work, of course, but as is well known, nothing ventured, nothing gained, the general remarked.

As for the U.S. side's counter disarmament proposals, according to Valeriy Manilov they have been received with interest at the CIS Armed Forces Main Command and General Staff. These proposals are now being studied carefully. The adoption of decisions must be preceded by a comprehensive and objective assessment of the character and scale of the reduction of the military arsenals of the country which is no longer our likely enemy and together with which we are to create a qualitatively new, all-embracing security system based on the priority of political means, trust, and good neighborliness, the Information Directorate chief concluded.

Old NATO Nuclear Strategy 'Became Senseless'

LD0702093192 Moscow TASS in English 0756 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Bonn February 7 ITAR-TASS—"The North Atlantic Alliance renounces its past nuclear strategy, envisaging the targeting of missiles with nuclear warheads at major industrial and cultural centres of the former Warsaw Treaty states," NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner told the newspaper "AUGSBURGER ALLGEMEINE" today.

"The old NATO nuclear strategy became senseless after Russia had announced that its missiles would not be aimed at Western cities," he noted.

"At present," Woerner stated, "it is necessary to think of an international agreement to ban nuclear weapons, which would obstruct the proliferation of nuclear know-how and technologies from the republics of the former Soviet Union to other countries of the world."

Shaposhnikov Positive on Nuclear Conference

LD0702101192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, who is in France with the delegation led by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, has given a generally positive assessment to French President Francois Mitterrand's initiative on the convening of a conference of nuclear powers.

Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov told an RIA correspondent that such a conference would help strengthen mutual trust and peace. The marshal firmly rejected French doubts about Russia's ability to cope unaided with the moving of nuclear weapons from the former Soviet republics to its own territory. He declared that Russia had a good deal of experience with moving nuclear weapons, and guaranteeing their safety and protection, since it had, specifically, withdrawn its nuclear weapons from Eastern Europe, Transcaucasia, and the Baltic region.

'Withdraw and Dismantle' 'Easy To Say'

PM0602165992 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 Feb 92 p 2

[Article by V. Filin: "Nuclear Bomb Assembly Technology. Yardman Minayev Speaks"]

[Text] Once it became apparent that our new country did not particularly need a nuclear shield, various curious details began to emerge. What used to be a virtual state secret was no secret at all, apparently, but a topic for discussion in the press for anyone interested in participating.

For obvious reasons, the interested parties were the countries of the former "likely enemy," and also the working people of the home nuclear-industrial weapons complex, and not just the scientists. From what one of them, Aleksandr Alekseyevich Minayev, former nuclear munitions assembly expert, now a military pensioner, says, it is clear, for example, that our nuclear shield is effectively hand-made, since it was and is being assembled mainly by hand, at several plants that formerly belonged to the USSR Ministry of Medium Machine Building. Five are well known: Sverdlovsk-44, Sverdlovsk-45, Arzamas-16, Chelyabinsk-70, and their counterparts in Penza. Servicemen and civilian experts were assigned to them to assemble aircraft bombs, warheads for cruise and conventional missiles, and nuclear torpedoes in special shops. They described themselves as engineer-fitters.

Aleksandr Minayev spent 14 of his 54 years assembling the contents of nuclear weapons. For example, the shop at Arzamas-16 where he worked employed around 30 people, including civilians, engaged in operations on the final assembly of bombs or missiles. From the first Soviet "Tatyana" and "Ivan" bombs to this day the assembly technology is basically the same. The bomb or missile warhead components and the container with the nuclear material—the uranium "pellet"—inside would be brought to the assembly point on cradles [stapel]. The assembly worker would remove the uranium pellet from the container with a special suction device and place it in a recess in the conventional explosive (the so-called "initiator" of the subsequent nuclear explosion), supplied with specially regulated needles to fix the position of the pellet. Whereupon the main operation was over. There was also the electronic part, of which the explosive detonator sockets are probably the most important elements.

Then came the tests. It is precision work. The fitters' protection facilities include rubber gloves and cleansing fluids—alcohol, benzene. Then again, there was the plan, as was customary at a socialist enterprise. Thirty items a month, on average. During the Caribbean crisis, for example, they churned out even more, for dispatch to the Cubans. They would occasionally be visited by the leadership: Sakharov, Zeldovich, Tsukerman. In response to complaints about the increased radiation level in the shop (as a rule the military representatives would inspect the "product" through a shielded aperture) they would say: You are military men, so you are expected to be stoical and endure any problems. After the shift they would return to the hostel, take a nap, brush the hair off the pillow, and then return to work. The pay at the time was 180 rubles [R] and dinner was free.

It is clear also from the account by A. Minayev, who assembled several thousands nuclear munitions in his time, that it is not that easy to get rid of our remarkable nuclear shield. Withdraw and dismantle is easy to say. But if you add it up, it is not tens and not hundreds of items that have to be dismantled, but thousands. So you have transportation, safety, and other problems, which, given the present chaotic situation in the country and in the transport system, need close attention. Not to mention money.

Moreover, nuclear munitions can only be dismantled where they have been assembled, that is, at plants of the

former Ministry of Medium Machine Building. And, obviously, by the same experts. According to Minayev, the technology has been known for a long time. At the munition storage facilities they will plug the detonator sockets and at the plant, on the cradles, they will remove the nuclear "pellets" or equivalent and place them in containers, while the remaining, nonnuclear part will be sent for destruction or dismantling.

Apparently we do not really need the West's proposals on technical assistance. What we need more is money to cover all the expenses. But, in any case, disarmament has to be handled by professionals, both scientists and "nuclear craftsmen"—the munitions assembly worker states.

A pensioner now, Aleksandr Alekseyevich earns some extra money at a scientific research institute. His total earnings are around R600. He is also forced to work as a yardman. Once he was called by a friend, a colleague in the nuclear industry, who asked him whether he had heard about the Libyans recruiting our specialists.

Gorbachev Article Published in Italian Paper

LD0602135492 Moscow TASS in English 1255 GMT 6 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Golyayev]

[Text] Rome February 6 TASS—Mikhail Gorbachev today published an article in the Italian newspaper LA STAMPA concentrating on prospects for socialism in the modern-day world. In the article he answers the question of whether communism is dead or it is destined to revive.

"I am sure that the model created by Stalin, which was an adventure from the outset, a regime that totally ignored democracy, human rights and people's needs, was done away with for all," Gorbachev writes.

"This was a system that coerced society and betrayed the ideas of socialism. I think the Stalin model is dead and I want to add: 'Thank God'. I should specify with the same confidence that this death does not concern socialism."

"The idea of socialism is alive and I see that efforts are taken to perceive it better, test it in practice and find a new form of life for this ideal. Such attempts are now being made in many countries," Gorbachev goes on.

He believes that the world is moving towards a new civilisation. This is why the patterns of old thinking are no longer suitable and should be changed. One cannot nowdays oppose capitalism to socialism like in the time of religious wars, he argues.

"President Bush recently stated that the United States won the Cold War. I would answer him this way: All of us have lost because we spent so many years on this Cold War. Now that the world managed to overcome this atmosphere and discard confrontation, all of us have won," Gorbachev concludes.

LA STAMPA, which printed the article on its front page, writes that it pioneers cooperation between Gorbachev and the newspaper.

Gorbachev Receives U.S. Ambassador Strauss

LD0602205992 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 6 Feb 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The former president of the former Union today received U.S. Ambassador in Moscow Robert Strauss, who conveyed to Mikhayl Sergeyevich greetings from the U.S. President and paid his personal respects. "I think we play quite a significant role in the affairs of the former Union."

Mikhail Sergeyevich, who at present heads the Gorbachev Fund, denied the possibility that he might lead an opposition to the Russian leadership under the aegis of the fund he has established.

[Begin Gorbachev recording] I do not think we should play such a role. I will support the line of the Russians and of Russia's president toward continuing democratic transformations and reforms. I now intend, as I said, not only to support that policy, but to defend it. [end recording]

Mikhail Gorbachev also expressed support for the economic reforms being carried out by Gaydar's government:

[Begin Gorbachev recording] I think these are all steps in the right direction. I would support that. But they know best. I am in sympathy with them and wish them success. [end recording]

CSCE Welcomes Admission of Ten CIS States

LD0602020792 Moscow TASS in English 1545 GMT 5 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Smelov]

[Text] Vienna February 5 (TASS)—Participants in the Vienna talks on confidence-building measures in Europe welcomed on Wednesday [5 February] the admission of ten new Commonwealth states to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

CSCE foreign ministers who recently met in Prague decided to boost the role of the conflict prevention centre in Vienna to ensure security and stability in Europe.

The meeting also adopted a declaration on nonproliferation of weapons and arms trade, urging a new mandate for talks on confidence-building measures, security and disarmament to be held after an upcoming CSCE summit meeting, Helsinki-2.

Participants in the Vienna talks are now discussing the wording of the mandate, Vladimir Shustov, head of the Russian delegation to the talks, told ITAR-TASS.

Black Sea Cooperation Document Initialed

PM0602123792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Feb 92 First Edition p 3

[ITAR-TASS report under "Political Impulse" rubric: "Cooperation Options"]

[Text] Leaders of the foreign policy departments of nine countries—Turkey, Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Georgia, Romania, and Bulgaria—have initialed a "Declaration on Black Sea Economic Cooperation." In the opinion of the meeting's participants, this document will form the basis of "multifaceted partnership and accord" in the Black Sea area.

The document notes that the creation of a single economic area will contribute to the transformation of the Black Sea area into a zone of "peace, stability, and prosperity" in the spirit of the CSCE and universally

recognized principles of international law. The sides confirmed their desire to expand and deepen cooperation in the sphere of the economy, trade, science and technology, and the environment. The Black Sea countries are seeking to give regional cooperation an open character, and are prepared to back participation in this cooperation by all interested states which share the aims stated in the declaration.

An "Istanbul Statement" was adopted on the results of the meeting, in which an invitation is extended to Greece and Yugoslavia to join the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Project as founder members before the end of May. It has also been decided to hold a conference of experts in Bucharest to prepare the final drafts of the documents to be submitted to the meeting at the level of heads of state or government scheduled to take place in Istanbul at the end of June or beginning of July.

Conference Views Coordinating Humanitarian Aid

PM0502110592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Nikolay Matukovskiy: "Experts Ponder How Best To Feed Us"]

[Text] Minsk—An international conference of the "contact group" for coordinating humanitarian aid to countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] has concluded its work in Minsk.

This was a business meeting between experts from the United States, Germany, Britain, Japan, France, Italy, Canada, the Netherlands, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, and a number of other countries to discuss the results of the Washington meeting and draw up a concrete program for the immediate future.

As the conference participants noted, there are very many problems in this matter—the reception, stocktaking, transportation, storage, and distribution of goods and produce arriving from abroad. It was no secret to the conference participants that at times this aid becomes a gift for commercial trade and even ends up on the markets of our neighbor Poland. Where is the sense in helping if aid does not reach its intended recipient? Freight is often simply stolen from trucks en route. Information about this is percolating to the European countries' mass media. People there are losing all interest in charity. They want to support children, pensioners, the disadvantaged, and the sick, not mafiosi.

Representatives of the CIS countries posed the question of humanitarian aid in somewhat different terms. Of course, we are very grateful for the products, especially the baby food, medicines, and medical equipment. But we do not want to be forever scrounging, we want to become equal partners so we can produce at home everything that not only we but also other countries need. They stressed that it is advantageous for the West to have in us not a second-rate client and consumer but a strong neighbor who would import and export a great deal, and there is massive untapped potential for this. What are needed are advanced technologies, projects, and studies in order to instigate a flow of exports within a year or two and in this way stabilize the economy.

Bonn 'Paying Increased Attention' to Baltics

PM0702111792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Feb 92 p 4

[Report by correspondent Yevgeniy Grigoryev: "Are Weapons Really Essential?"]

[Text] Bonn—Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are actively developing their relations with Germany. Tallinn and Vilnius already have ambassadors in Bonn. All three independent Baltic states attach primary importance to these ties in the hope that Germany, along with Scandinavia, will give them special aid in building a new life. "They are expecting from the Germans," SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG writes, "primarily an introduction into the European Community and support in relation to Russia and neighboring CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] states."

By virtue of historical traditions and other circumstances, Bonn is paying increased attention to the Baltic republics' wishes. They are being helped to create a diplomatic service and given various advice and intermediary support in establishing ties with international organizations. However, the general deterioration of the situation in the Baltic region and the limited potential of the governments there make—or so Federal Government circles believe—the implementation of many aid projects more difficult. On the other hand, it is not easy for the FRG to justify the Baltic hopes for large-scale financial aid and certain other wishes.

Strange as it may seem, they include requests from all three republics that their own armed forces, which are in the process of being created, be given the equipment handed over to the Bundeswehr by the former GDR National People's Army. The Bundeswehr has plenty of these weapons to spare: Over 1.2 million items including tanks, artillery, aircraft, small arms, and so on. So far Bonn has been circumspect in dealing with these wishes. However, the Estonian Government will receive into its command two aircraft from the National People's Army "reserve stocks." Lithuania has been promised 250 and Latvia 200 trucks from these same "reserve stocks." Bonn has allocated police equipment worth up to 3 million marks to each republic.

In principle, any independent state obviously needs some sort of army, if only a symbolic army. But against the background of the disastrous economic situation being reported from the Baltic region, this—German interlocutors tell me—can hardly be classified as priority concerns. There is no doubt that assistance from the federal bank in creating financial institutions, projects like expanding the port of Riga, and other forms of

material and technical aid, including aid from individual federal laender, are much more promising and essential for the Baltic states.

Reaction To 'Note of Disdainful Superiority'

LD0602114592 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Commentary by Radio Moscow news analyst Yuriy Solton]

[Text] In Washington these days you can hear the words: the United States has won in the Cold War pronounced at the highest political level. Here's what Radio Moscow news analyst Yuriy Solton writes:

Well if members of the administration losing popularity among Americans want to consider themselves winners of the Cold War, we won't argue. The more so since this is a very special year in the United States—the year of presidential elections. And so the politicians entering the race for the White House want to score points.

We won't go into history and look for who and why started the Cold War. [sentence as heard] The main thing is that the very difficult period which continued for more than four decades and brought about the mad arms race is in the past. And everybody stands to gain from this, no matter who considers himself the winner.

Today when the former potential enemies with nuclear missiles targeted at each other begin establishing relations of partnership and even friendship, everybody is breathing more freely. The hope for a safer world for everyone is ever more real.

But such a world is yet to be built. It is necesary to destroy mountains of weapons which are enough to destroy the world many times over and to put out the smouldering fire of conflicts and prevent the appearance of new ones. And all that can be done only together without singling out winners and losers of the Cold War and dividing the countries into big and small, rich and poor.

This seems to be an elementary truth, and yet in the statements made by certain American leaders, especially by military men, one can sometimes hear a note of disdainful superiority over others and even nostalgia for the former power politics.

The chairman of the American Joint Chiefs of Staff General Colin Powell, told a Senate committee that America today is the only superpower left and should be regarded as a dominant force in ensuring stability in the world. True, the general added that the United States does not seek hegemony in any region, and yet hardly do such statements help pool efforts in building a new world order. The basis of such an order is tolerance. Nothing will come out without tolerance and respect for partners, without an understanding of each others' cares and worries.

Commentary on Who To Blame for Cuban Demise

PY0602023592 Moscow Radio Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 2300 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Thirty years ago, on 3 February 1962, the United States imposed an economic blockade on Cuba following a decision by President John Kennedy. The international situation has improved during these past 30 years. Probably the main development during these years has been that the cold war affecting the East-West relationship has ended and there is now an atmosphere of mutual cooperation and understanding. But the U.S.-Cuban relationship remains unchanged.

We will now hear a commentary on the subject by Leonid Levchenko:

To say that the glacial period in U.S.-Cuban relations, which started in the 60's, prevails says nothing. Following the collapse of the socialist world followed by the collapse of the USSR, the temperature of the bilateral relations dropped to a critical level.

A PRENSA LATINA commentary on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the economic blockade states that as a result of the blockade, Cuba has lost almost $20 billion. However, Washington shows no signs of abandoning its policy of pressure used in times of confrontations with the Eastern hemisphere and which President George Bush has declared [word indistinct] defunct.

PRENSA LATINA goes on to say that in addition, Cuba shows no signs of yielding to pressure to give up socialism.

As a consequence, ideological differences rather than common sense are the reasons for the continuing U.S. blockade and the permanent hostility between the United States and Cuba.

Many politicians have come to the conclusion that the cold war should be replaced by normal interstate relations which befit the current international situation. According to Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, Cuba should start thinking about the universal concept of democracy and the United States should be willing to begin a dialogue to ease the tensions which, in his opinion, are no longer justified.

OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soarez said a few days ago that Cuba's isolation is contradictory to the regional integration process. It should also be added that the strain which the lasting U.S. economic blockade causes Cuba by no means contributes to the Cuban peace of mind or to help them think about the possibility of a democratic life. Such is the case that the Cubans constantly are being told that the U.S. blockade and the collapse of the USSR are responsible for their economic problems.

This statement compels us to once again raise the issue of the relationship between the former USSR and Cuba. It should be recalled that right from the beginning of the

U.S. blockade, Cuba was supported, almost completely, by the USSR and that it copied the Soviet experience of a planned economy. The Cuban leadership, which received Soviet international aid, squandered its resources on costly projects rather than in satisfying the needs of the people.

When this aid ceased and the economic relations between Cuba and the CIS began to be calculated on the basis of international prices in dollars, Cuban difficulties worsened drastically. Not only is the U.S. blockade to blame for the current Cuban situation—the policy of the [words indistinct] USSR also left its Cuban allies in quite a critical state.

New Rules for U.S. Diplomats' Conduct Approved

PM0602164592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 Feb 92 p 2

[ITAR-TASS report: "'Romance' Not Recommended For Diplomats"]

[Text] The U.S. State Department has laid down new rules of conduct for diplomats working in American embassies in Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and the Ukraine.

State Department spokeswoman M. Tutweiler said that "all the main restrictions and bans that existed under the previous Soviet reigme have been abolished." According to her, it will enable U.S. diplomats to establish "closer relations" with the citizens of the former USSR. In particular, they are now permitted to meet one-on-one with inhabitants of the republics.

At the same time, Tutweiler noted that one strict ban, concerning the conduct of U.S. diplomats in the former Soviet republics, remains in force. "It concerns romantic situations," which embassy staffers are still recommended not to get into. But, she added, "this is also under review."

Commonwealth

Armed Forces on Agenda: 'Undivided or Allied'

OW0602171592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1533 GMT 6 Feb 92

[By diplomatic and military correspondent Mikhail Mayorev from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry informed DP [Diplomatic Panorama] that US Secretary of State James Baker's forthcoming trip to Tashkent, Ashkhabad, Dushanbe and Moscow will not take place earlier than February 14, when the Commonwealth leaders will gather in Minsk. According to the initial schedule, the trip was to begin on February 10. Subsequently, the American side asked to put it off by 4-5 days, said a high-ranking official. The American Administration may wish to know how matters will stand in the Commonwealth after the summit, he said.

The future of the Commonwealth Armed Forces will figure among the chief items on the Minsk agenda. Will they be undivided or allied? How are they going to be financed and supplied? Differences between the Commonwealth leaders may prove so strong that the situation will not become any clearer even after the summit. The Moscow military quarters informed DP that "Russia is ready for any course of events". Very few hope that the Commonwealth Armed Forces will remain undivided. Commander of the Commonwealth's strategic forces Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov is likely to be disappointed, because his concept of preserving the Armed Forces' unity is shared only by Russia and Kazakhstan.

A Russian military expert believes that these two republics will possibly "save their common strategic area". No one can say, however, what such a system will be like, if Russia decides to form up an army of its own. Russia, meanwhile, is determined to have its own armed forces and defence ministry which. [sentence as received] This is a matter of hours, not even days, DP was told.

What was meant here, is obviously the decree which, according to well-informed military sources, had been drafted and was on President Yeltsin's table. The final decision will be taken after the Minsk summit which will hardly back the idea of undivided armed forces. At best, its will raise the question of allied armed forces. Given this, the adoption of the decree on the formation of Russian armed forces is becoming inevitable.

Anyway, since the Ukrainian leaders reject the concepts of both unity and alliance, the armed forces of Russia and Ukraine will hardly find themselves harnessed together. The dispute over the status of the Black Sea fleet reflects the extent of contradictions spoiling their relations in the military sphere. By February 14, Russian and Ukrainian experts are expected to draft an agreement on the division of the Black Sea Fleet. No one knows, however, whether this document will be prepared on time.

According to circles close to the talks, "the future of every unit and formation is being discussed individually". Although a Ukrainian expert described the position of Russia as tough, Russia still believes that the so-called assault ships, whose mission is to tackle strategic tasks, should belong to the Commonwealth. Disputes, however, have also arisen over the marine forces. Russian experts insist that the marine forces be also attached to the Commonwealth, because their functions go beyond those of coast-guarding.

In short, on February 14, the Commonwealth (in Russian this word means an community of friendly states) is expected to confirm its adherence to this word, however far-fetched it may be. Until recently, its members were busy discussing points of difference rather than things in common. The situation will seem even more gloomy, however, if the politicians' tough arguments will be supplemented by the clatter of arms.

Summit Expected To Produce Trade Agreement

LD0702105792 Moscow TASS in English 1011 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—The key result of the Commonwealth summit, which opens in Moscow on Saturday [8 February], could well be the signing of an agreement to regulate economic relations between Commonwealth member-states. The document signifies considerable progress in removing trade barriers between former Soviet republics.

There is no absolute certainty that heads of government will sign the document on Saturday. However, it is known, that Russia, Ukraine and other states do not object in principle to removing trade barriers. By signing this agreement, Commonwealth states will make one more step towards creating a single economic space on the territory of the former Soviet Union.

The agenda of the talks, yet to be finalised by heads of government, consists of nine points. Among these, the question of supplying and financing Commonwealth Armed Forces in the first quarter of 1992 will be most debated. The Russian parliament has decided to cut allocations for weapons procurement by 700 per cent and for military research—by two thirds. In these circumstances, some republics might try to make their Commonwealth partners shoulder their share of military spending, convincing them that every state should have an army of its own.

Heads of government are also expected to have a heated debate on centralised imports of food, agricultural materials and pesticides for foreign credits. The issue of who

will pay for the credits will be the main bone of contention. According to sources in the Ukrainian leadership, Kiev will oppose the formula of joint responsibility of Commonwealth states for debt repayment, put forward by Russia and other Commonwealth members. "We want a clear definition of our share in Commonwealth credits and be responsible fully for it alone," they said.

In addition, Commonwealth leaders are expected to take a decision on a differentiated approach to profitability levels of 50 per cent. After the price liberalisation, several monopolists have begun compensating their costs by increasing prices for their products through excessive profitability levels, at times exceeding 200 per cent. In the end, this policy had a devastating effect on consumers who have to pay sky high prices for basics.

Under a preliminary agenda, the sides will discuss measures to coordinate inter-state relations in the sphere of electrical energy, and the functioning of a weather forecasting service in the Commonwealth, sign an agreement on environmental issues and discuss other issues.

Baltics

'Joint Policy' Toward Russia Agreed Upon

LD0602222392 Riga Radio Riga International in English 2130 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] The Baltic states have agreed to carry out a joint policy toward the Russian Federation, announced by the deputy foreign ministers of the Baltic states during their meeting in Riga. Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia will help, as far as possible, in the construction of accommodation for Soviet troops presently stationed on the territory of the Baltic states.

The deputy foreign ministers also agreed on setting up a joint working party aimed at securing a regular exchange of information between the ministries. At the same time, the ministers reached a decision on common visa regulations.

Central Asia

Points of View Coordinated Prior to Meeting

LD0702001892 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1600 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] In Alma-Ata, the parliamentarians of Kazakhstan and the republics of Central Asia have met. The meeting was held on the threshold of the meeting of the heads of the Supreme Soviets of the independent states so that points of view could be coordinated on fundamental positions and existing disagreements could be removed. The idea was voiced that close ties and multilateral relations should be established among the parliaments.

Military

14 Draft Documents Submitted to CIS Meeting

PM0602155392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Feb 92 p 1

[Interview with Lieutenant General L. Ivashov, chief of the Commonwealth of Independent States, CIS, Armed Forces Administration of Affairs, by Major I. Ivanyuk; place and date not given: "Armed Forces Await Political Decisions"]

[Text] The issue of which fundamental documents for the Armed Forces will be discussed during the upcoming 14 February meeting in Minsk between the heads of the Commonwealth member states, as well as the question of which measures will be adopted, is undoubtedly worrying everyone.

The editorial office asked Lieutenant General L. Ivashov, chief of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Armed Forces Administration of Affairs, to lift the veil a little on the preparation for this important forum.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Leonid Grigoryevich, we do not want to dramatize the situation but, you know, unless definite agreements on military questions are adopted between the Commonwealth's independent states, it seems the Army and Navy will be left without any weapons...

[Ivashov] Looking at things calmly, the current situation is such that current legislation in this field has ceased to satisfy today's requirements and has become inconsistent with the legal norms worked out in the CIS countries. I am referring to some 1,500 laws, resolutions, and other normative acts inherited from the USSR. As well as this, more than 3,000 USSR Defense Ministry orders and directives that regulated and continue to regulate troops' lives are still in force today. Many of these are not in keeping with the spirit of the times either. The general military regulations are also hopelessly obsolete.

Right now new political decisions are necessary, and they need to be enshrined in law. A new system of military-legal acts is necessary, otherwise a legal vacuum will be formed which will deregulate all relations in the military sphere. And this means the collapse of the Armed Forces. The package of documents that will be discussed in Minsk will enable us to lay the foundations of of a military structure in the CIS and to provide legal and social guarantees for servicemen.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Can you name these documents?

[Ivashov] The Armed Forces Main Command is submitting drafts of 14 documents, each of which is important in its own way at the present time. Let me begin with the Agreement on the Powers of the Supreme Organs of Sovereign States on Defense Questions. This envisages

demarcating powers in this area between the Councils of Heads of State, Heads of Government, and Defense Ministers, and the CIS Armed Forces Main Command. The clause regarding the CIS Armed Forces Main Command, if it is ratified in this form, will significantly extend the rights of the commander in chief compared to the rights of a defense minister, but at the same time closer cooperation is needed with the Council of Defense Ministers (the representatives of defense committees), a draft clause on which will also be submitted for discussion in Minsk. This has been prompted by the fact that organs which operate constantly and are able to resolve day-to-day military questions on a CIS scale have not been set up. I would also include in this group of documents the fundamentally important Agreement on the Basic Legal Principles of Armed Forces Activity, which confirms the validity of existing military-political acts insofar as they do not contradict the agreements reached within the CIS framework.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Leonid Grigoryevich, in addition to this, as far as we know, a working group has been established by Russian Government directive which is to conduct an expert analysis of all military-legal acts...

[Ivashov] Yes, that's correct. My deputy, Major General V. Dayuba, was a member of this group. This group will have to surmount a huge task—"sifting through" the thousands of documents I have already mentioned. This will take a lot of time and effort. But life goes on, you know... In addition to the things I have named, we are proposing by separate agreement to entitle the commander in chief of the Armed Forces to bring provisional military regulations into effect until 1995... A draft agreement on Armed Forces law enforcement organs has also been formulated. These will presumably be at the disposal of territorial organs (except for the forensic medical body of experts), but at the same time a single organizational system for all states and a single legal area will be preserved. There is also a need for some coordinating organ. Of course, at the same time we must bear in mind, for example, the peculiarities of national criminal and criminal procedure codes, but at the same time unified responsibility for military crimes is to be preserved.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] The assumption is that mutual understanding on these problems will be found in Minsk. But are there other problems?

[Ivashov] I will also list these in broad outline. Thus, a draft agreement on the formation of a joint defense budget will be submitted for the attention of the heads of state. Here an integral indicator has been taken as a basis for accounting procedures which takes into account the size of the state's population and the gross national income produced. With this approach, the main burden of military expenditure—over 62 percent—will fall on Russia, just over 17 percent will fall on the Ukraine, and a little over 5 percent will fall on Kazakhstan. However, something close to this ratio prevailed in the old days as well. A specific mechanism for financing the Armed Forces is also being proposed—the money for the following month should be transferred before the 25th day of the current month.

I will also mention the agreement on the system for training military cadres for the CIS and the states' own armed forces, and the agreement on the status of strategic forces and general purpose forces. I would also like to single out the agreement on social and legal guarantees for servicemen, and also persons discharged from military service and their families. Here as no place else, maybe, it is important to formulate general approaches ensuring that the rights of military personnel and their families are not infringed.

Questions of an "external" nature will probably be included on the conference agenda as well. Right now a discussion of the former USSR's international obligations in the military sphere is under way at the level of the independent states' foreign ministries. The work is not going smoothly, but it is possible that in Minsk it will nevertheless prove possible to coordinate the principles and procedure involved in implementing the treaty on the reduction and limitation of strategic offensive weapons and the conventional armed forces treaty. I hope that common sense will triumph here as well.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] So if I have understood you, are you approaching the upcoming meeting in an optimistic frame of mind?

[Ivashov] Certainly, though I realize that maybe not all the documents that have been submitted will be adopted, if only through lack of time, for example.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] And what will the next step be?

[Ivashov] Strictly speaking, this has already begun. We are preparing a package of documents to be examined by the Council of Heads of State. These deal, for example, with the procedure for ordering, manufacturing, and supplying hardware and weapons; material and technical backup for the Armed Forces; the preservation of a unified communications system; the coordinated development of infrastructure, etc. A package of documents for the next "tier" is being also prepared for examination at Council of Defense Ministers level. Work on reviewing USSR Defense Ministry orders and directives is progressing.

Today there is an obvious need to coordinate the activity of the legislative structures of Commonwealth participant states as regards defense problems with a view to implementing to a certain extent the uniform regulation of legal relations in the military sphere. We believe that laws on the status of servicemen, universal military conscription and military service, and other laws should be adopted in all CIS states. The drafts of these acts will be submitted for examination.

Kasatanov Denies Allegations of Transfer

LD0602215592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 6 Feb 92

[By Yuriy Rostov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Admiral Kasatonov, commander in chief of the Black Sea Fleet, has denied reports alleging that he is being transferred to the Northern Fleet. There will be no transfers, Kasatonov said, at least until 14 February. I will recall that on 14 February, the issue of the Fleet is to be discussed at the meeting of the Commonwealth of Independent States' leaders.

'Complex' Black Sea Fleet Situation Reviewed

Admiral's 'Chronicle'

PM0602144792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Feb 92 p 1

[Report by Captain Second Rank V. Pasyakin: "Black Sea Fleet Chronicle"]

[Text] **Admiral Igor Kasatonov: My Actions Do Not Run Counter to the Orders of the Commander in Chief, and I Believe I Am Acting Correctly**

The complex situation in the Black Sea Fleet has become even more complex in connection with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's statement that it is impossible for Admiral Igor Kasatonov to remain as head of the Black Sea Fleet. That is why, when opening the latest news conference, Admiral Kasatonov stressed the need for more meetings with journalists. He noted that all versions and forms of the military oath were regulated in January. The oath was also considered in the Commonwealth strategic forces, and our young seamen have also taken it—first of all 82 percent of them and now 89 percent. This figure is constantly growing. At the same time, individual seamen want to take the oath of allegiance only to Ukraine—largely because of their parents' instructions. And that is certainly all right. There are also those who have not yet determined their position and want to gain an understanding of the situation, and we have to give them the possibility to do this.

Broaching the subject of the Black Sea Fleet seamen's meeting with B. Yeltsin on the cruiser Moskva, the commander noted the Russian president's position: The Black Sea Fleet is the Commonwealth's fleet, and any president from the 11 Commonwealth states has the right to come here.

We asked direct questions about the need to resolve the fate of the Black Sea Fleet on a political level as soon as possible. We received the following answer: Everything will be resolved at the meeting 14 February. So we await this date.

In answer to the question of whether a visit by the Ukrainian president to Sevastopol and the Fleet is expected, Kasatonov answered: I have no information about this. This is Ukraine's territory and its prerogative, and I believe that if Leonid Makarovich comes here—as he has frequently done to meet the seamen—it is nothing out of the ordinary. Of course we are prepared to receive him. Speaking of how the arms reduction program put forward by Yeltsin may affect the Black Sea Fleet, the admiral noted that the Black Sea Fleet, as a strategic fleet, has the relevant capability, and once such statements are made, they must certainly be backed up by actions. And Ukraine, on whose territory the fleet is based, plans to withdraw nuclear weapons beyond the borders of Crimea. These positions and tasks coincide, and I think they are realistic.

Igor Vladimirovich answered the question of Kravchuk's statement on replacing the commander of the Black Sea Fleet as follows: I am operating using civilized methods within the framework of the rights and capabilities vested in me, I am restraining the Fleet from splitting, and I am trying to maintain combat readiness and the state of military discipline at the right level. I am fulfilling my duties. My actions do not contravene the orders and instructions of Comrades Chernavin and Shaposhnikov. During this time no punishment has been imposed on me and I believe that I am acting correctly.

Captain Second Rank Yuriy Shalyt Has Not Been Arrested, He Has Been "Blessed" by Ukrainian Defense Minister

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already reported on the events connected with the oath taking in the patrol combatant brigade commanded by Captain Second Rank Yuriy Shalyt. There have been developments. This is what Captain First Rank Andrey Lazebnikov, chief of the Black Sea Fleet press center, reported on this subject:

"Reports have appeared in certain mass media about the arrest of Captain Second Rank Yuriy Shalyt, commander of the brigade; this does not correspond to reality and contravenes existing legislation. Officer Shalyt tried to organize an oath-taking ceremony in breach of established rituals without informing the higher command. The commander's unauthorized actions have caused a split on a nationalist basis among the personnel entrusted to him, and has exacerbated the situation in the brigade."

Admittedly Shalyt has been removed from fulfilling his official duties and is at present attached to the Crimean Naval Base staff until a decision is taken by a senior commander.

The Black Sea Fleet command believes that such unauthorized actions taken by officials—before a political decision is made about the question of the fleet's future, and before the list of units and formations that will be part of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] strategic forces and Ukrainian armed forces is determined—are exacerbating an already tense situation with respect to the Black Sea Fleet.

And here is a telegram I saw at Black Sea Fleet staff headquarters. It was addressed to Captain Second Rank Shalyt.

"Esteemed Yuriy Vladimirovich. I assess the fact that the personnel of your formation have voluntarily taken the military oath of allegiance to the Ukrainian people as a display of the seamen's courage and high sense of identity in the current complex political situation, and a firm decision to indissolubly link the fate of the Black Sea Fleet with the fate of the Ukrainian people. I congratulate you and the whole personnel in the formation entrusted to you on fulfilling your lofty civil duty.

"From the moment the oath was taken, you were transferred to the protection of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet. Any attempts by officials to persecute you are unlawful and illegal and will entail liability in accordance with current Ukrainian legislation.

"Respectfully yours, Colonel General Morozov, Ukrainian minister of defense."

I do not think that there is any need to comment on this telegram. The Ukrainian defense minister's position is clearly expounded in it.

I also spoke with base commander Vice Admiral Aleksandr Frolov on this subject.

"About 10 days before the oath was taken, when Yuriy Shalyt was in Sevastopol, two men who introduced themselves as employees of competent organs of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense, instructed him to come to a private apartment from where he could get in touch with Ukrainian Defense Minister Col. Gen. Morozov. Just such a conversation took place. Then I asked Shalyt: Are you sure that you spoke to Col. Gen. Morozov? And at that point Shalyt was unsure.

"As I understood it, the conversation with the other person, which lasted 45-50 minutes, concerned the formation's degree of combat readiness, people's frame of mind, and whether the brigade is prepared to take the oath of allegiance to Ukraine. Shalyt did not report this conversation to the base command. The brigade personnel started preparing in secret to take the Ukrainian oath."

Situation in Poti Is Stabilizing Slowly. Attempted Attacks on Military Installations Continue

Many readers are wondering what is happening in Poti at the moment. I got in touch with Captain Second Rank Vasiliy Kishchin, the brigade commander who was recently appointed to replace the wounded commander. This is what he reported over the telephone:

"In the evening of 30 January a group of armed bandits carried out an attack on the medical depot in Poti Garrison. Armed with assault rifles, Majors Viktor Sushko and Sergey Arkhipov and Captain Oleg Bolozovich drove the bandits off the depot's territory."

"However, early in the morning of 31 January, before reveille, the depot was again attacked by bandits. Threatening to shoot them, the bandits locked the unarmed seamen in one of the rooms and ransacked the stores.

"We are taking an inventory at the moment, and as yet it is hard to say what damage has been done. One thing is clear: It is substantial damage. All bandages, syringes, and many medicines have been stolen. That is, the things that we may need at any moment. There are no injuries or casualties among the seamen following the attack on the depot.

"As for the situation in the city of Poti, anarchy reigns here right now. The main forces of Tengiz Kitovani's supporters have redeployed in Zugdidi. Criminal elements immediately exploited this circumstance. Robberies are taking place in Poti and there is constant violence. At night gunfire continues practically unabated. Attacks on military installations have become more frequent. A day does not go by without them.

"The former militia formations are doing nothing. An attempt is being made to create new, municipal formations, but how soon this will happen remains unknown.

"Sosu Aleksandriya has been made mayor of Poti. He is now the main representative of power in the city until a prefecture is formed. Incidentally, he has already appealed to us for assistance and is asking to be given gasoline to fuel the vehicles that deliver bread in the city. I think we will manage to help them with something."

Officers' Views Divided

PM0602123192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1910 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Report from the "Information Bulletin" program]

[Text] [Correspondent] The problems of the Black Sea Fleet are affecting both Russia and Ukraine. Initially the sides wouldn't listen to each other—Russia thought it unimportant that 75 percent of Black Sea Fleet personnel (including Russians, of course) had voted for Ukrainian independence. Kiev was particularly irritated by statements along the lines of "the Black Sea Fleet has always been and will always be Russian."

[Teypura] My personal view is that I'd like to stay with the Black Sea Fleet, it should belong to the Ukraine.

[Senior Lieutenant Sukach] Of course, the strategic part of the Fleet should be given to Russia—that is, the biggest ships with missions in the Mediterranean.

[Senior Lieutenant Pakhomov] What I don't like is the political ambitions of Kravchuk and Yeltsin—they should share things out.

[Correspondent] The question arises—will this conflict result in the use of weapons?

[Senior Lieutenant Pakhomov] My view is that nobody will resort to weapons, even if there were extremist demonstrations on an individual ship.

[Correspondent] The way has been opened to agreement. Talks have been held in Kiev between Russian and Ukrainian state delegations on military-political issues. It has been decided to divide the Armed Forces into two categories. First, the Commonwealth's strategic forces. These will include the Black Sea Fleet. And only part of the Fleet will be allocated to the Ukrainian armed forces, which will be part of the second category of CIS forces. [Video shows Senior Lieutenant Kuznetsov, identified by caption]

[Kuznetsov] I think they will agree to keep the Fleet united. After all, the prime concept is the Commonwealth of Independent States, and we'll be serving that Commonwealth.

[Reporter] Now it's a question of implementing the agreements that have been reached without any more conflict. Let's hope that the Black Sea Fleet doesn't turn into a Sevastopol waltz which all sailors will remember for a long time.

Afraid of 'Possible Purge'

PM0602163592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Feb 92 p 3

[Report by Colonel V. Usoltsev under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Desire Expressed by 2,562 Officers and 555 Warrant Officers To Transfer from Far East Military District To Other CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] States' Armies"]

[Text] Khabarovsk—According to the Far East Military District Directorate's statistics, as of 31 January 1992 over 2,000 servicemen have expressed a wish to serve specifically in Ukraine, and several hundred warrant officers and officers would like to continue service in their specialist capacity in Belarus.

Colonel A. Sladchenko, deputy chief of the district Personnel Directorate, announced that many servicemen want to do the opposite and transfer to the Far East Military District. It is noteworthy that the majority of them are officers and warrant officers performing their service in the Kiev, Odessa, and Carpathian Military Districts. Delegates from military units are also coming to Khabarovsk in this context. For example, Senior Lieutenant A. Makhleyev, commander of a tank company, is asserting that 55 percent of the permanent personnel in his regiment, stationed in Yavorov near Lvov, have not taken the Ukrainian oath and have decided to transfer to military districts on Russian territory. The situation is approximately the same in other regiments in the division too. Officers and warrant officers are not sure that their social rights will be ensured in Ukraine, but most of all they are afraid of a possible purge of "non-Ukrainian elements" in the Army.

Passions 'Not Being Dampened'

LD0602213192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Video report by correspondent I. Romanovskiy, including recorded remarks by V. Davydov, Air Force lieutenant general in the Transcarpathian Military District, place and date not given; from the "Vesti" newscast—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Vladimir Chernavin, commander of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Navy, does not consider the talks on the fate of the Black Sea to be, quote, successful. At any rate, that's the situation today. According to the admiral, an oath of loyalty to the Commonwealth has already been taken voluntarily by nearly 90 percent of recruits on Black Sea vessels. Most of them, Chernavin stressed, are Ukrainians.

[Romanovskiy] Passions around the military oath in Ukraine are not being dampened. Moreover, the situation has reached boiling point. According to a statement by Colonel Marteresyan, the Committee for the Social Protection of Military Servicemen will uphold the interests of everyone in the military, regardless of to whom they have given their oath or their citizenship. However, proceeding from legislation adopted by the Ukrainian Government, servicemen who have not given the oath of loyalty to the Ukrainian people are being deprived of all ranks. In addition to that, Article 92 of the law on pensions for citizens of Ukraine, says that those leaving the Republic receive a pension for a further six months, and henceforth this financing is suspended.

[Davydov] People are faced all the time with the question of what will happen to them in the future, even among those who have taken the oath, and those who haven't, because the whole thing is clear—everyone knows perfectly well—that the armed forces of the Ukraine will be cut down. Now it turns out that a serviceman, having taken the oath and hoping that he will serve until pensionable age, may find that his further active service in the Armed Forces of the Ukraine will be over.

[Romanovskiy] People are beginning to realize why, according to a sociological poll of independent journalists, 84.6 percent of servicemen who have taken the oath have done so because of a fear of being left without any means of existence. [video shows recruit taking oath, missile being fired, warships, interview with Davydov in office]

Aircraft Carriers Additional Subject of Dispute

LD0402053292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 31 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The aircraft carriers Varyag and Ulyanovsk, whose construction has been suspended, have become the subject of a dispute between Ukraine and Russia.

Russia has accused Ukraine of misappropriating the warships. Now that the customer for the ships, the USSR Defense Ministry, no longer exists, Ukraine does not need these strategic monsters. It will cost 1 billion rubles to complete the Varyag. Construction of the Ulyanovsk has only just begun. Specialists at the association building them believe the best thing to do is to mothball the Varyag and cut up the Ulyanovsk for scrap, which will cost 50 million rubles.

Armed Forces Pose 'Threat to Human Life'

OW0702025192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Service in the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Armed Forces poses a threat to human life and health, said the Independent Union of Servicemen. According to its data which did not take into account deaths inflicted in hot spots, in 1988 one officer was killed in city streets, in 1989—59, in 1990—97. The total number of deaths inflicted in the course of military service in the past 4 years surpassed 15,000.

According to independent experts, at the moment more than 250,000 officers and non-commissioned officers have no flats of their own. Besides, housing is needed by over 100,000 servicemen returning from abroad. Besides, 30,000 members of servicemen's families found themselves in a position of refugees as a result of ethnic tensions aggravating in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

150,000 of the 500,000 servicemen dismissed in the framework of personnel cuts have neither jobs nor housing. A total of 220,000 military who got dismissed are out of work.

Commercial Center Receives Legal Status

LD0702045892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] The Commercial Center of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Armed Forces has received legal status. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told today by Major-General Vladimir Kozhevnikov, deputy head of the center, that Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Armed Forces, has approved a resolution on this commercial structure and defined its legal status. The commercial center is a holding company, which functions on the principle of profitability and self-financing. Its aim is to find additional financial, material, and employment resources to solve the numerous problems within the Armed Forces.

Economic

New Oil Producers Union Adopts Declaration

LD0602232892 Moscow TASS in English 1600 GMT 5 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondence Mikhail Prutkin]

[Text] Tyumen February 5 TASS—The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Oil Producers Union has set the aim of stopping the disintegration of fuel and power generation complex and defending the interests of all workers. A declaration to this effect was adopted by delegates who gathered in its first constitutive congress in Tyumen (West Siberia). Today they are trying to find a way out of the blind alley. According to some specialists, the oil production this year may be cut by 100 million tonnes.

Different approaches to solve the accumulated problems emerged in the congress. Some of them call to put pressure on the government, some for issuing ultimatums, others, who fortunately constitute a majority, call for a qualified evaluation of the situation and a civilized fight for their rights. An idea was repeatedly voiced, that the Oil Producers Union should not be subjected to any political pressure and should not be an attribute to someone's power.

The delegates of the congress are to elect today their leader and its repesentative bodies.

Union President Elected

LD0602233492 Moscow TASS in English 2103 GMT 5 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhayl Prutkin]

[Text] Tyumen, Western Siberia, February 5 ITAR-TASS—An Oil Industry Union of the Commonwealth of Independent States has been established at a founding congress that ended here on Wednesday [5 January]. The congress adopted an appeal to the presidents, governments of the former Union republics.

In the appeal, the delegates to the congress, concerned over the growing energy crisis, called for keeping the integrity of the economic space and preventing a break-up of the oil and gas sector.

Vladimir Medvedev, 44, who has a 25-year length of work in the oil industry, was elected the president of the Oil Industry Union.

"The newly established Oil Industry Union is not a monster eager to put pressure on the state. This a long-awaited 'child' that is expected to uphold the interests of all collectives working in the sector," Medvedev told ITAR-TASS.

"We shall coordinate efforts and participate in lawmaking. It seems that everyone has come to realise that ultimatums or one-sided actions can only aggravate the crisis situation. Our task is to bring to the government's notice our vision of problems and help it go through the period of reforms with the least losses," Medvedev said.

Media

TASS Carries Press Review for 6 Feb

LD0602072892 Moscow TASS in English 0624 GMT 6 Feb 92

["Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 6 (TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin began an official visit to France on Wednesday [5 January], newspapers report today. This is Yeltsin's first visit to France as Russia's president. Newspapers cover Boris Yeltsin's arrival at Paris's Orly Airport and his talks with President Francois Mitterrand of France.

In a story, headlined "In the Elysee Palace After the Cold War", KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA reports the first day of Yeltsin's stay in Paris and comments on the possible outcome of the Franco-Russian talks. Yeltsin's visit to France will most likely be a success, it said.

In an article, headlined "Moscow Urges Paris To Join Dialogue on Nuclear Disarmament", KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reports comments on Yeltsin's visit by the French press and business circles. Nuclear disarmament and economic issues will dominate the Russian-French summit, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes.

The agenda of Boris Yeltsin's visit to France "dooms it to success", NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes. However, the recent political row, involving Palestinian leader George Habash, could pose a serious problem for the French Government "due to possible calls for a vote of confidence," it said.

Many stories focus on the country's economy. RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA carries an interview with Avtovaz auto plant director Vladimir Kadannikov, who speaks about problems facing the Russian auto industry. Spiralling prices have left most Russians struggling for survival, the newspaper says in another article, on economic reforms.

In 1991, capital investment in Russia's agriculture fell by 5 per cent, against 1990 figures, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA writes. "Illusions about satiated life will have to go" if this trend will continue, it says.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports a relative lull in fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh. Azeri forces are regrouping for a new offensive, it said.

Newspapers report new tensions in the Georgian city of Poti—the stronghold of supporters, loyal to ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia. There has been a rise in crime in the city, newspapers report, saying that rallies of Gamsakhurdia supporters are continuing in Poti and Abkhazia, despite warnings by Georgia's provisional government. Government troops have been deployed in some parts of Abkhazia.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA carries an interview with Chechen Foreign Minister Shamil Beno, who believes the Chechen Republic should have full independence in foreign policy issues. Conditions are right to set up a "mechanism of consultations between the Caucasian republics," Beno said.

Press Review for 7 Feb

LD0702071792 Moscow TASS in English 0605 GMT 7 Feb 92

["Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 7 (TASS)—Today's newspapers continue to comment on Russian President Boris Yeltsin's official visit to France.

Yeltsin and President Francois Mitterrand discussed nuclear disarmament during their first person-to-person talk. France is ready to disarm but only after Russia, the United States and China reduce their nuclear arsenals to that of France's, the newspaper PRAVDA said.

The newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries a report about Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's news conference in Kiev.

He spoke on the return of Germans deported from the Ukraine during the Second World War, the fate of the Black Sea Fleet and the future of the Commonwealth Armed Forces.

Russia is responsible for military and political stability of the Commonwealth, whose members should establish legal norms and principles of relations to exclude territorial and other disputes, Gennadiy Burbulis, first deputy Russian prime minister, told the newspaper TRUD.

Burbulis wants to see the Commonwealth as "independent states which need each other and meet this need within the Commonwealth of Independent States".

There are three types of states within the Commonwealth of Independent States, which differ by their approach towards integration, according to Burbulis.

He believes Kazakhstan, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan, which are interested in preserving key Commonwealth structures, belong to the first type. The second type is the states which "are more interested in political and military integration as they cannot find ways to support the whole system of economic space".

Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Moldova, which prioritise the drive for independence, make up the third type.

Speaking on military issues, Burbulis reiterated that Russia "bears responsibility for the process of stabilisation in the military-political sphere within the Commonwealth of Independent States," and calls for single armed forces, both strategic and general purpose ones.

Touching upon the existing disagreement within the Russian Government, Burbulis admitted that there is a "strong desire to use bodies of power for counter-reforms and sometimes sabotage."

The agenda of the summit meeting of the Commonwealth heads of state scheduled for February 8 in Moscow will include ten questions, Dmitriy Bulakhov, a Belarussian representative in the working group of the Commonwealth councils of the heads of state and government, told PRAVDA.

The agenda will include the problem of supplies to and financing of the Commonwealth Armed Forces in the first quarter of 1992, as well as food imports, problems of material and power supply and ecologic problems in Commonwealth states. The heads of state will also discuss measures to curb the galloping inflation and prevent further price rises.

Ten deputies of the former Soviet parliament have urged a congress of Soviet people's deputies to "pave the way for fruitful cooperation to save the peoples of the former Soviet Union".

In an interview with PRAVDA, Aleksandr Krayko, one of the deputies, said the congress, which would represent the whole population of the former Soviet Union, could take real steps to set up legitimate federal bodies of power and administration and stop the arbitrariness, which nullified the powers of Soviet people's deputies.

The newspaper NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (INDEPENDENT GAZETTE) publishes an article by doctors of sciences Algis Prozauskas and Valeriy Tishkov, in which they speak about the nature and the future of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The Crimea may become an independent state if its population vote so during an upcoming referendum in the region, the newspaper said.

The Commonwealth Armed Forces should consist of single strategic forces and united general purpose forces comprising the Armed Forces of all Commonwealth states, including Russia, Aleksandr Kotenkov, deputy head of the Russian parliamentary commission for defence and security issues, said.

In an interview with the newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, he stressed that before creating the armed forces, it is necessary to determine to which state they will belong.

Newspapers also carry reports about the situation in Yugoslavia, Venezuela, Algeria, and the Middle East.

International Affairs

Yeltsin, Mitterand Vow To Expand Cooperation

Bilateral Agreements Signed

LD0702120992 Moscow TASS in English
1140 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Yuriy Sizov, Viktor Khrekov, and Vladimir Shvets]

[Text] Paris February 7 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and President Francois Mitterrand of France signed an agreement between France and Russia in the Elysee Palace here today.

The document aims to promote cooperation between the two countries in line with the changing situation in Europe and the world, local observers said.

The sides pledge to expand cooperation, mutual trust and promote democracy, freedom, justice and solidarity, and put an end to the division of Europe and the world in opposing blocs. The sides reaffirmed their commitment to their U.N. and CSCE obligations.

A considerable part of the treaty is devoted to cooperation of the two countries in promoting international security, democratic values and human rights and averting conflicts. The two governments have agreed to hold regular consultations and coordinate their policies. In addition, the Russian and French leaders have agreed to hold high-level meetings at least once a year. Meetings between foreign ministers will be held twice a year.

According to Russia and France, such international organisations as the CSCE, the West European Union, and the North Atlantic Alliance should play an important role in strengthening peace in Europe. Noting their commitment to reducing the number of weapons, including nuclear weapons, to the level of minimum sufficiency, the sides reiterated their involvement in the processes of balanced reductions of conventional weapons in Europe, and devising new confidence building measures. Special attention is being paid to preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. It is planned to develop and expand military contacts and devise bilateral exchange programmes.

The treaty sets the guidelines for the development of bilateral economic relations. France has pledged to promote relations between the European Community and Russia. The sides also agreed to interact in various international financial organisations and cooperate closely within the framework of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The document envisages broad cooperation between the two countries in the sphere of economy, industry, science, technology and training programmes. It also envisages broadening contacts in the sphere of culture, art, education and information. The priority is attached to projects designed to creating a pan-European cultural space. Priority is given to promoting and expanding contacts between the two nations.

Aid to Ease Reform 'Consequences'

LD0602194592 Moscow TASS in English
1748 GMT 6 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Sergey Batyrev, Yuriy Sizov, Viktor Khrekov, Vladimir Shvets]

[Text] Paris February 6 [dateline as received]—French Prime Minister Edith Cresson gave an official luncheon in honour of Russian President Boris Yeltsin in the reception hall of the French Foreign Ministry on Thursday [6 February].

Addressing the Russian president, Cresson said that his current visit to France is of historic importance. She emphasised that traditional Franco-Russian relations had never been ruptured. These ties strengthened particularly from the beginning of this century when a large Russian community settled in France. Many Russians and French men and women are now linked by family ties.

"Welcoming the Russian president, we greet the whole of Russia. We thus greet all those who, in August of last year, fiercely resisted the forces that were out to stop democracy", Cresson said.

The programme of economic reforms now being implemented in Russia reflects the new state of the spirit of the Russian people who are prepared to make sacrifices for the sake of Russia's greatness and prosperity", the prime minister said. On behalf of the French Government, she expressed the resolve to give Russia the needed aid and assistance together with the international community.

Urgent humanitarian aid in the form of food and medicines is first of all envisaged. It will help ease social consequences of the period of transition to a market economy.

France has signed an agreement with Russia to supply it with grain and food products in return for oil products.

The credit of 1.5 billion francs for grain deliveries is also envisaged. France will also exert efforts to the utmost towards Russia's integration into the world economic system.

"We are striving to resume normal financial relations with Russia which broke off during the dissolution of the USSR. France is also prepared to assist Russia's entry into the International Monetary Bank and the World Bank, which is envisaged by a treaty between France and Russia to be signed on Friday", Cresson said.

The French prime minister also mentioned great interest of the French business circles in the development of a

huge Russian market. This interest attests to the confidence the French people feel in Russia a country that has developed the most advanced technology has to its credit wonderful scientific discoveries, wonderful intelligentsia and high standards in culture. She expressed the confidence that Russia, having huge material and manpower resources, is capable of greatly impressing the world again, and will overcome all current difficulties while France will do its utmost to promote this in every way.

In his reply speech Boris Yeltsin said that during his conversations with President Francois Mitterrand and other French statesmen it was established that the attitudes of Russian and French leaders "either coincide or are very similar on all matters of disarmament and world, European and bilateral relations."

"After several years of indecision and marking time, Russia has become a free democratic state and follows in the footsteps of civilised countries", the president said. "The imperial system has collapsed, the communist system disintegrated, and Russia has become truly free. It should not be forgotten that in this 70 odd years everything that was connected with private property and enterprise was erased from the memory of Russian people", he went on. "But we believe in the talented Russian people, in its original character, and that it will be acting with characteristic boldness and enterprise".

"I do not like the word 'aid' very much. Just as France, Russia is a great power. I believe that the aid which was mentioned today should rather be described as support to the Russian reforms, which is of advantage also to France, Europe, and the whole world", the Russian president said. At the same time he emphasised that this is a profitable investment of capital in Russia and that those who manage to invest in this huge market will receive returns on it in just a few years.

Yeltsin expressed gratitude to the French Government "for a programme of support for Russian reforms set out today".

France's Chirac Lauds Russia's 'Revival'

LD0602190192 Moscow TASS in English 1614 GMT 6 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Aleksandr Krivykh and Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Paris February 6 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation and Mayor Jacques Chirac of Paris met in Hotel de Ville, the mayor's office in Paris, today.

The festively decorated hall was filled with invited guests, delegation members and journalists.

Chirac, who is a prominent politician leading the French opposition, stressed in his welcoming address the great importance of resuming relations between Russia and France, stemming from deep historical roots.

He said the citizens of Russia had elected their president in the first-ever free and democratic elections in the country.

"That their choice was right was borne out by history: during the most dramatic hours of the putsch, when some people were ready to give in without resistance and give up their independence with fatal inevitability, Boris Yeltsin stood up heroically to combat the forces of tyranny and the past". Courage of this kind is close to the heart of each and every Frenchman, Chirac stressed.

Because of this, Chirac said, "on behalf of the Gaullist movement I assure you of our solidarity. Your struggle was crowned with success, the government of Russia was able to return to the Kremlin, and I want to emphasize that the entire world, Europe and France are now looking up only to this Russia".

"Russia which is shaking off the fetters of Soviet power and totalitarianism, the eternal Russia whose revival we are now watching with joy," Chirac said, "has always maintained, despite caprices of history, privileged and fruitful relations with France. Our nations are linked by century-old sympathy and natural affinity. Paris is proud that many remarkable monuments in the city commemorate these relations. One instance is the Aleksandr III Bridge, the first stone of which was laid by Tsar Nicholas II and the Russian empress in 1986 [as received] and which bears the emblem of the then Russian capital St. Petersburg.

"The Franco-Russian union concluded 100 years ago evoked interest in things Russian, an interest that was destined to win our hearts", Chirac said.

He then stressed that Russia is facing many major and difficult tasks. The most urgent one is economic reform, unconstrained by communist framework, which will enable the country with its vast potential to create production and distribution structures capable of satisfying people's demands.

According to Chirac, reforms are a necessary condition for strengthening democracy, which can set an example for other nations of the former Soviet Union. The mayor called for signing partnership agreements to attract Western economies to participation in the development of Russia. Chirac closed his address with the words "long live friendship between France and Russia".

Boris Yeltsin thanked the mayor of Paris for the warm reception. He said "the delegation took close to heart the response shown by Paris inhabitants and the leaders of the city during this visit".

"Free, democratic Russia is making its first steps. It is a young democratic state," Yeltsin said.

"We understand that the path Russia will have to traverse in order to embark on a truly civilized road will be far from simple and thorny. But we are true to our

choice and will follow the road in order to make Russia a truly democratic country and give its people genuine freedom."

"The success of reform which has begun in Russia will depend to a great extent on the position of our friends and partners abroad. It is not only a question of the destiny of the Russian people. It would be a gross error to let a historical chance slip—and we believe this to be the last chance to let Russia join the family of civilized states in Europe and the world as a whole.

"It is known that crises are particularly dangerous for young democracies, and Russia is now going through a deep economic crisis. This is what we have received as our share of heritage from the former Soviet Union, which dug a deep hole in the ground for us during its 74 years of imperial rule. During a crisis, immunity against nationalistic ideas is weakened and illusions are strengthened that problems can be solved by simple methods of violence and arbitrary rule. This has recurred throughout history: democracy was trampled upon by the boots of a newly-sprung dictator. The world community should realize that if today's reforms in Russia, which is striving for democracy and a market economy, choke, a dictator will arise. This is something that neither Russia nor the entire world community can permit to happen."

The Russian president then stressed that the development of cooperation between Russia and France should help substantially in solving the problems facing the Federation.

"I would like to recall what General de Gaulle once said: If such great nations as France and Russia stand united, they will be strong".

The present Russo-French dialogue is developing under conditions which symbolize the continuance of deep historical ties between our countries, Yeltsin said.

This dialogue is based on common interests, on the mutual desire to create a single Europe of solidarity and ensure reliable peace and guarantees of its stability. The whole world, Europe and France would like to see a prosperous democratic country arise in the continent's eastern part, living in peace with its close and far neighbors, who are becoming partners, friends and allies but not enemies, Yeltsin said.

The presidents of Russia and the United States recently made major statements in the disarmament fields, Boris Yeltsin recalled. Unanimity on major problems was displayed at the summit in the U.N. Security Council. "We and you, we are all going through a truly historic moment—East-West confrontation is at an end," the president said. "We are in favour of our nuclear installations not being targeted at each other's territory. True, we must have a minimally sufficient nuclear armaments in order to deter various adventure-seekers, terrorists and irresponsible politicians in some countries.

"We are ready to cut our nuclear arsenal even further: not by 36 per cent as required by the START treaty, not even by half but six times, i.e. to have not 12,000 strategic nuclear warheads but 2,500—we believe this to be the minimum of sufficiency.

"We respect France's stand with respect to nuclear forces and think that when a program of deep cuts and elimination of nuclear weapons is implemented, France will respond by ending the build-up of its nuclear potential".

The Russian president then stressed that the Russian people had the right to hope for understanding and solidarity on the part of the world community. "The situation is still very fragile in democratic Russia, reforms have not yet become 100 percent irreversible, and if assistance from the world community is not forthcoming, they may be stifled. It should be borne in mind that the breath of the reds and the brown forces is already felt from behind, on our necks. Delay in support for economic reforms by the world community is now becoming dangerous", Yeltsin said.

Yeltsin said February, March and April will be the most critical months for Russians. This is particularly true with regard to food supplies.

"We are counting on active assistance by the French business community in reforming Russia's economy. The effects can be mutually rewarding, he said. [punctuation as received]

"It is possible to save a franc today, but when the danger of return to a "cold war" looms, thousand times more will have to be spent."

The Russian president then said, "regrettably, the French business community has not yet taken a proper place in our economy. I think this situation should be rectified as soon as possible. I as president guarantee that investments and participation of the French business community in the development of the Russian economy can be fairly stable. Russia is a rich country, rich in people, land and mineral resources. We have many joint programs which are profitable both to Russia and France".

Yeltsin Meets Assembly President

LD0602203992 Moscow TASS in English 1943 GMT 6 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Georg Mikhailin, and Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Paris February 6 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin met on Thursday [6 February] with President of the French National Assembly Henri Emanuelli in Hotel de Lassay, the official residence of the president of the National Assembly.

"I am very pleased with the meeting", Yeltsin said in an interview to ITAR-TASS. "Together with First Deputy Chairman of the Russian Parliament Sergey Filatov, we

discussed with the French side parliamentary ties and parliamentarians' cooperation in the area of law. We have arrived at the conclusion that cooperation between young Russian democracy and mature French democracy can be mutually beneficial: it can help Russian democracy to become stronger, and it can envigorate French democracy".

The Russian president said that problems of Russian reforms and their support by the world community, and disarmament problems, were also discussed. He said that the future of the French nuclear arsenal and Russia's recent proposals for the creation of a global defence system had been touched upon in this connection. France's emergency food aid to Russia and assistance to Russian reforms had also been discussed. Yeltsin said he was pleased that following the negotiations with President Francois Mitterrand held on Wednesday [5 February], the French Government decided on Thursday [6 February] to unblock the credits allocated earlier and to send emergency food aid to Russia. Yeltsin said that he had invited Emanuelli to visit Russia. The invitation was accepted, and Emanuelli will arrive in Russia in the second half of this year.

In a brief interview with ITAR-TASS, Emanuelli also expressed full satisfaction with the talk. He said it promoted a more profound mutual understanding and would give an impetus to cooperation of parliamentarians of the two countries.

Yeltsin Meets With Emigres

LD0602225192 Moscow TASS in English
2203 GMT 6 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Aleksandr Krivykh, and Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Paris February 7—The moral fortitude that was characteristic of Russian emigrants lives on in their children and grandchildren" [no opening quotation mark as received], Russian President Boris Yeltsin said at a meeting with compatriots on Thursday [6 February] evening here.

Expressing gratitude to those present for maintaining contacts with Russia, the president said: "This was constantly reminding to those living in Russia that there are Russians who think differently, who have not forgotten the sacred word 'Russia'. This suggested to us in the past years that we must act, that we must no longer tolerate what is happening in our country".

Yeltsin touched upon the position of believers in Russia. "We treasure religion", he said, "it will certainly not be easy to restore the former importance of the religion. Nevertheless, the church feels freer in our country". "When you see the Russian president at a service in church, do not think that this is for propaganda purposes", Yeltsin said. "In church you get cleaner in your soul".

The trustful and sincere tone of the meeting set by the Russian president's speech evoked approval of foreign compatriots. "I am absolutely sure that Russia will revive", Boris Golitsyn, descendant of Prince Golitsyn, told ITAR-TASS.

Businessmen Positively Assess Talks

LD0602224592 Moscow TASS in English
2203 GMT 6 Feb 92

[By special TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Sergey Batyrev and Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Paris February 6 TASS—Russia is open for the development of direct business ties with the whole world, including France. This was the main idea of the Russian President Boris Yeltsin's meeting with representatives of the French business circles, held in Paris today.

Greeting the high guest, Francois Perigot, president of the National Council of French Entrepreneurs, said the business world of France is ready to help Russia in implementing the current reforms in every way—to train the personnel, increase investments in the Russian economy, develop various business ties. However, Perigot said, the French business people are facing the same problems as their colleagues from other countries. He mentioned some difficulties of a legal nature and the lack of sufficient guarantees on the part of the Russian authorities.

The Russian president said the situation in Russia is rather complex and the transition to market relations is connected with considerable difficulties. The experience of other countries shows that some time will pass before the reforms yield the first concrete results. "The main thing is that we have a political will to do it and to go through with it," the Russian leader stressed. "We understand if the reforms in Russia fail the whole world will suffer. I am convinced that by the end of 1992 we shall 'see light at the end of the tunnel', and in 1993 we shall begin to get out of the crisis."

"To overcome the present difficulties as soon as possible, we need to develop business ties with other countries. We are inviting you to the Russian market. At present, all necessary conditions have been created for this and all former bureaucratic restrictions have been lifted," Yeltsin pointed out. Of course, carrying out business activities in Russia is connected with a certain risk, but the situation prompts that it is worth risking. The Russian Government is ready to grant all necessary guarantees for developing business contacts. Russia is a powerful country which presents tempting prospects for any Western partner. Today we are telling our Western partners: "Do not be late. Do not miss a good opportunity", head of the Russian state emphasised.

The Russian president was asked many questions which showed the French business people are interested in the development of business partnership with Russia and therefore they are worried about quite concrete issues.

What is the importance of economic agreements concluded recently between Russia and Kazakhstan and Belarus? When is it possible to see the ruble as a convertible currency unit? On what terms does the Russian legislation permit the privatization of property?—these are some of the questions raised by French business people. The Russian president and Deputy Chairman of the Russian Government Yegor Gaydar, taking part in the meeting, gave detailed answers to the questions.

The Russian president's speech has produced a very dynamic and strong impression upon me, Francois Perigot told journalists soon after the meeting. It seems to me, the dominant idea of his speech can be formulated briefly as follows: "Trust us. Of course, we are in a difficult position now and we cannot give you a 100 per cent guarantee, but we believe in the success and in the end we shall achieve it". I must say, these words sound very convincing. It does not necessarily mean all the problems have been resolved but one can say the visit promoted the improvement of our relations, including those in the field of financing and crediting.

All this will make it possible to sign a number of important agreements on economic cooperation in the near future, the leader of the Organisation of French Entrepreneurs said. Of course, we should be present on the Russian market. We cannot but agree with the Russian president's warning that if the French business delays business ties with Russia it will risk to lag behind competitors from other Western countries, Perigot stressed.

A large potential market is being created before our eyes, the young political democracy is becoming stronger. It is natural that we should risk but it should be well calculated and balanced.

Defense Ministry Discussions Held

LD0602173592 Moscow TASS in English 1606 GMT 6 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Sergey Batyrev, Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Paris February 6 TASS—The Russian president and free, democratic Russia meet with understanding, recognition and support in the world, Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), said in an interview to ITAR-TASS on Thursday [6 February]. Marshal Shaposhnikov is staying in Paris as member of the official delegation accompanying the Russian president.

Shaposhnikov said there were negotiations with leaders of the French Defence Ministry and that they passed "in a spirit of comradeliness and absolute openness on all matters discussed".

Shaposhnikov said that the plan for interaction of the military agencies of France and the CIS was coordinated last autumn. He said that this cooperation will be developing and that this will also be promoted by his official visit to France planned for this April. Shaposhnikov declared in favour of the development of cooperation between the military of the two countries at every level, "from general down to lieutenant". He believes this will promote confidence-building and mutual understanding.

In connection with the Vienna accords on armed forces and arms reduction in Europe, the marshal said various aspects connected with the solution of these problems were discussed.

"The entire range of questions connected with the nuclear arsenal of the former Soviet Union evokes much interest of all our interlocutors in the West", Shaposhnikov said. "They show considerable anxiety in this connection. We explain to them that our strategic nuclear weapons are under single command. Tactical nuclear weapons are now stationed only in the territories of three CIS countries—Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. We do not need assistance as regards transportation and protection of nuclear weapons, we have the necessary experience. But there is a possibility of mutual consultations as regards the destruction of nuclear charges and turning weapons-grade plutonium and uranium into ordinary industrial materials. We do not think that we possess the most advanced technologies in this area", the marshal said. "We intend to accept the West's proposals to grant us appropriate technologies for the purpose", he added.

"Our colleagues in the West are also concerned over the future of our nuclear scientists", Shaposhnikov said. He said that appropriate measures envisaging greater social protection for these scientists, higher wages for them and ensuring their employment are being worked out. Shaposhnikov said he believed Western colleagues could address themselves to these problems.

Shaposhnikov said all foreign interlocutors expressed extreme concern over the danger of the disintegration of the country's Armed Forces. And these tendencies already manifest themselves in the CIS, he noted.

He said Western partners now seem to be more concerned over problems of the CIS Armed Forces than some leaders of separate CIS countries and even certain military.

Perhaps, this extreme concern will help somehow to reassure leaders now seeking to split the Army as soon as possible in a downright barbarous way, and to create their own armed forces. Shaposhnikov said this haste gives one the impression that these states are either going to declare war on someone tomorrow, or else get hold of some secret information that somebody is going to attack them. "I believe that all the problems can be resolved calmly, in a civilised way, within a certain period of transition, say two or three years", Shaposhnikov said.

Documents Signed, Pledge 'Technical Aid'

LD0602224492 Moscow TASS in English 2104 GMT 6 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Yuriy Sizov, Viktor Khrekov, Vladimir Shvets]

[Text] Paris February 6—Negotiations between members of the Russian Government and their French counterparts were held here during the current state official visit of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to France. A number of Russo-French documents aimed at the widening of cooperation between the two countries in various areas were signed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Thursday [6 February]

Foreign Ministers Andrey Kozyrev and Roland Dumas signed an intergovernmental agreement on cultural cooperation and a number of documents regulating the issuing of visas and cooperation in the area of archives. Letters were exchanged about the conditions of the activity of the Russian and French cultural centres in the capitals of the two countries.

A number of archive documents dating from 1837 and 1915 were presented as a gift to France to revive historic traditions in bilateral relations, Kozyrev said. "I hope they will remind to the French side of the scope and broadness of ties that France once had with Russia", Kozyrev said.

Matters of economic cooperation were among priorities of the Russo-French talks. They cropped up when the overall state of bilateral relations was assessed during Yeltsin's conversation with Francois Mitterrand. Detailed negotiations on these problems were conducted by Deputy Chairman of the Russian Government Yegor Gaydar and French Minister of State for the Economy, Finance and the Budget Pierre Beregovoy.

The debates on financial and economic problems resulted in the signing of a protocol on the agreement regulating credit matters, and on the setting up of the Russo-French Council for Economic, Financial, Industrial and Commercial Affairs. The council, headed by Gaydar and Beregovoy, will hold annual meetings in the capitals of the two countries.

In addition to the protocol, an agreement was signed on cooperation in the use of methods of economic regulation. Letters were exchanged on problems of using the agreement on mutual encouragement and mutual protection of investments, and the agreement on avoiding double taxation of incomes.

Speaking at the ceremony of the signing of a package of economic documents, Beregovoy noted that in accordance with these documents France allocates to Russia credits of two billion francs for the purchase of grain. France also confirms the granting of a credit of 200 million francs for the purchase of meat.

Russia will also be supplied with industrial equipment, chemicals and metal worth 3.5 billion francs. Beregovoy said that 120 million francs will be allocated additionally for technical aid, training of specialists and fees to foreign consultants. A special agreement confirms an arrangement about the delivery of food products to Russia in return for petroleum products.

Beregovoy said that the terms on which credits are granted to Russia were drawn up with taking into account generally-recognised international norms and agreements governing relations with the former Soviet Union in the economic area. Western capital investments are guaranteed by Russian foreign economic structures under the Russian Government's control.

Noting that the economic situation in the two countries and the world was discussed during conversations with Gaydar, Beregovoy declared in favour of Russia's early integration into the world economic system.

Regarding the possibility of setting up the fund for stabilising the rouble, Beregovoy said that "the question can be considered as soon as Russia becomes a full-fledged member of the International Monetary Fund. France will declare in favour of the positive decision".

"Not one society has yet been able to stamp out crime", Russian Interior Minister Viktor Yerin said at the ceremony of signing of the protocol on cooperation between the interior ministries of the two countries. "Russo-French cooperation is much needed in this area, and a document signed creates a good legal basis for this".

The protocol, specifically, envisages the stepping up of cooperation of law enforcement bodies of France and Russia in combating organised crime, illegal traffic of narcotics and terrorism, and in controlling migration.

Press Grants 'Little Attention'

LD0602173392 Moscow TASS in English 1606 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow February 6 ITAR-TASS—"NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA" (independent newspaper) in its article devoted to the Russian president's visit to France stresses that it is Boris Yeltsin's first trip to Paris as a leader of a powerful nuclear state—a successor of the former Soviet Union.

The newspaper reminds that in the course of the Russian president's stay in France it is expected to sign a treaty on cooperation between Russia and France, four protocols and possibly other joint documents, and makes a conclusion that "the large scale of Yeltsin's visit is impressing" and his visit "is destined to be a success". At the same time the paper calls not to make hasty conclusions as "The French press has been granting rather little attention to the Russian president's visit over the past few days".

Visit to France Concludes

LD0702121292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1133 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Paris, 7 Feb (TASS)—Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has expressed satisfaction with the results of his official state visit to France, which is being concluded today, during a joint news conference with French President Francois Mitterrand which is now being held in Paris.

"The visit contained a tightly-packed program, it was intensive and very useful," the Russian leader stated in his opening address at the news conference. "And both I and our delegation are very satisfied with the results of all the talks, especially those between the presidents of France and Russia."

Boris Yeltsin particularly emphasized the "prompt" [operativnyy] nature of the French president's "reaction" to those questions which were put by the Russian leader during the very first conversation in France during this visit. "We are parting with a sense of full mutual awareness of feelings and, at the same time, mutual commitment in our cooperation," the Russian president added.

Boris Yeltsin also said that "a new epoch, a new era in our relations is beginning" (relations between France and democratic Russia—ITAR-TASS correspondent)

Further on Yeltsin's North America, UK Tour

PM0502121592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Article by Vladimir Mikheyev: "Russia-United States: Last Nail Driven into 'Cold War' Coffin in Camp David, but Path from Hostility to Cooperation Will Be Harder Than We Supposed"]

[Text] The Camp David declaration adopted at the meeting of the Russian and U.S. presidents perhaps drove the last nail into the coffin of the "cold war." A new formula for mutual relations was proposed, laying the first stone in the foundation of interstate communication which in all "civilized" parts of the world is built on partnership and the Olympic principle of friendly rivalry.

Let us recall the historic, utterly unstrained formulation: "Russia and the United States do not view each other as potential enemies. Their relations are characterized henceforth by friendship and partnership based on mutual trust and respect and common adherence to democracy and economic freedom."

An "enormous distance" has been covered. To reach this in every sense revolutionary admission, an admission which was not extorted, which was not a unilateral concession adopted under pressure, we had to consign to oblivion many behests of the not so remote past, to "waive principles" which had been declared from the lofty rostrums of party congresses and served as the point of departure for our contribution to the arms race, our bipolar thinking, which prompted us to seek and counter "the hand of Washington" in any nooks and crannies of the planet, and the "hate months," although these copied the experience of our more sophisticated ideological opponents.

We are leafing backward through the history textbook. At the 22d CPSU Congress the United States was called "the center of world reaction" which "in alliance with the West German militarists and revanchists" threatened peace and the peoples' security. At the 25th CPSU Congress the "spirit of Helsinki" promised a thaw with the United States and therefore cases were stipulated when "for all the obvious difference in the class nature of the two states and their ideologies there is a firm intention to resolve differences and disputes not by force, not by threats and saber-rattling, but by peaceful political means." At the 28th CPSU Congress, held in July 1990, the shoots of the "new thinking" made it possible to announce a turn in relations between the USSR and the United States "away from confrontation and rivalry in the arms race and toward mutual understanding and in a number of questions even partnership." Milestones on the long journey, a volte-face, or whatever you call them—the signs of the evolution of our self-awareness and knowledge of the surrounding world—are there and do not need better illustration.

Ahead is outlined an even more alluring prospect, which fits perfectly into the future "new world order," about which many people have been talking since the time of the united front against Saddam Husayn. Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev asserts: "We (Russia and the United States) are even potentially no longer enemies and we have friendly and in the long term allied relations." The application has been made. What backs it up, apart from common sense and good will?

Indeed, the ideological barricades are more insuperable than the long-standing debates and rivalry between the Europeans. A graphic example: in postwar Europe former Nazi Germany was transformed surprisingly rapidly into the closets ally of the United States—a member of the anti-Hitler coalition—and then joined the NATO military-political alliance. Nonetheless, they shared the ideas of the market capitalist economy and parliamentary democracy. As co-religionists it was easier for them to be transformed, albeit not instantaneously, from enemies at war into partners united by geopolitical aims and a common enemy.

Today Russia and the United States "adhere to democracy and economic freedom." Henceforth the ideological qualification does not apply. But is it not too early to lay claim to a friendly disposition? Or—albeit in the remote but foreseeable future—allied links? Everything will fall into place if we do not succumb to euphoria and view the

document signed in the U.S. President's out of town residence as a declaration of intent which still has to be filled with content.

Here is nother meaningful detail: a few days before the summit meeting, in his annual State of the Union address, he stated: "The United States has won the 'cold war'." Two days later in London Boris Yeltsin voiced a different opinion: "It is not the United States but we who won the 'cold war'." But one cannot fail to see that equal partnership will be complicated if one side considers itself the conqueror and the other the conquered.

What is needed is a volte-face in thinking, which is recognized on both sides of the Atlantic, and it is not for nothing that the Sunday [2 February] issue of THE NEW YORK TIMES contains an invitation to scientists and officials to reconsider the past—"to understand how rivalry with the Soviets in the military and political field has changed the lives of Americans for the past 45 years and what false stereotypes it created and how the United States must change now that the 'cold war' has ended."

Rethinking "false stereotypes" means taking an important step to ensure that the expression "allies" is transformed from a declaration of intent into a reality of the future—a worthy aim.

'Stunned' Americans With 'Daring'

924C0549A Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian No 6, 5 Feb 92 pp 1, 9

[Report by LITERATURNAYA GAZETA correspondent Edgar Cheporov: "Hello, Boris! Greetings, George!: The Presidents of Russia and the United States Found a Common Language"]

[Text] New York—"I have the warmest feelings for what he has done and is doing," G. Bush said about B. Yeltsin, "and I consider him my friend." "I have been fortunate," B. Yeltsin replied, "both as a politician and simply as a man, to have met George Bush."

The Russian leader was invited to Camp David, the out-of-town residence of American presidents, which emphasized the informality of the meeting. At the news conference the host appeared in a sport coat, his guest, in a knitted sweater. On parting Bush presented Yeltsin with a pair of cowboy boots made to order for this occasion in the president's home parts—Houston. Yeltsin was also served a birthday cake—he reached the age of 61 during the visit. Later, on his way to a meeting with leaders of Congress, running very late here, Yeltsin stopped in the center of Washington to greet Americans. "He has a strong handshake," reporters quoted Stephen Frost, a firefighter from California, as saying. "Yeltsin's all right. We can talk with him."

Both firefighter Frost and President Bush have grounds for such conclusions. The meeting of presidents was condemned to succeed. The day before Yeltsin had announced an unprecedentedly sharp reduction in Russia's appropriations for arms and a radical reduction in the nuclear potential. A reduction in American arms was announced almost simultaneously by the U.S. President also. The Russian president emphasized in the UN Security Council: "Russia is building democracy and sees the United Nations as an instrument of the defense of democracy throughout the world." In the same speech he advanced a number of initiatives, among which one of the most significant and, most likely, most unexpected was the idea of the joint development with the United States of a strategic defense initiative. The idea that our countries "are not simply partners but allies" was heard in the speeches of the Russian and American presidents at the United Nations. This proposition was subsequently enshrined in the joint declaration of the two powers—openness and tolerance should be a "hallmark of relations between our peoples and governments."

Boris Yeltsin was here for the first time from a noncommunist country. Need it be said with what close attention Yeltsin has been watched in America since he began his struggle for the office of president. The attitude toward him of the public and politicians has never been unambivalent. Yeltsin was seen as an adversary of the exceptionally popular Mikhail Gorbachev. The rivalry of the two leaders was intimidating in its prospect of a destabilization of the situation in the USSR, which still existed at that time. But then there was the putsch, and there was the tank on which Yeltsin stood. The scales tilted in his direction for reasons which were not entirely rational, moreover, it seems to me. Yeltsin stunned the Americans by his daring. It was then that comparisons of the president of Russia with American politicians, who were regretfully denied Yeltsin's decisiveness, were heard. But it was said of him also: "In America he would most likely have lost an election campaign."

Americans have a sacred belief in the advantages of capitalism. Although he is as yet substituting for this word "market economy," Yeltsin intends going the route of civilized mankind. His recognition in the West and his constantly growing popularity are programmed, and the seriousness of his intentions is not doubted here. Bush said at the news conference at Camp David that he was "absolutely convinced" of Russia's aspiration to democracy and hoped to help it "in every way possible." While acknowledging that Russia faces tremendous difficulties, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and other international financial organizations have also approved Yeltsin's economic reforms.

But, while paying tribute to the importance of these reforms both for Russia and for the world, Western business is, for all that, in no hurry to participate in them on a large scale. "What are you waiting for?" Yeltsin asked representatives of the business world at a meeting at the Federal Reserve Bank in New York. "We are not holding out our hand for assistance but offering to commence broad cooperation."

Face of 'New State' Presented

PM0502150392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Feb 92 p 1

[Article by observer Aleksandr Golts under the general heading: "The 'Cold War' Really Is Over. But It Seems We did Not Lose It"]

[Text] The last days of last week will go down if not in history textbooks then certainly in diplomatic reference books and works on questions of military policy and strategy. When B. Yeltsin was setting out on his trip across the ocean, he was faced with several tasks, and the resolution of each one of them could have been a stumbling block even to someone experienced in foreign policy affairs. Thus, in the UN building, whose walls remember the irate N. Khrushchev promising to "bury" the West, the Russian president had to show the face of a new state and convince the world community that no threat stems from Russia.

He had to establish new relations with the U.S. President. Let us not forget here that until recently Washington treated the new Russian leader with some suspicion, for his political style is so different from that to which Americans became accustomed during the Gorbachev epoch. Finally, B. Yeltsin had to try to remove those obstacles that still hinder our cooperation with the West—cooperation that is so essential.

Of course, we will not be able to reply definitely today whether these tasks were resolved. However, the reaction of our partners and, chiefly, the documents signed in London, Washington, and Montreal [as published] give good cause to speak of what is, perhaps, the first serious achievement of the present Russian foreign policy.

The Russian president's actual speech at the session of heads of member states of the UN Security Council was a success. The leaders of the major states gathered urgently in New York to outline ways to maintain stability and create a new world order under conditions when the Soviet Union—one of the pillars of the old universe—has vanished into the past. Of course, it was quite pleasant for the West's leaders to hear words about the end of totalitarianism in Russia. But I believe that, if B. Yeltsin had confined himself to declarations of this kind, this would not have produced the expected result. To the credit of the Russian president it has to be pointed out that he did, at least, indicate the guidelines by which he intends to be guided in his policy. This is, above all, the supremacy of democracy, of human rights and freedoms, and of legality and morality—which, according to him, must be confirmed in Russian legislation in the very near future.

This is a gamble on the steady enhancement of the UN role in strengthening global and regional stability. It is natural that B. Yeltsin supported F. Mitterrand's proposal on the need for the world community to create a special rapid reaction mechanism, which, by decision of the Security Council, could promptly come into operation in the region of a crisis.

Finally, the large-scale disarmament program offered to the world community is also Russia's new face.

I believe that the final statement, which proclaims that "the world today has the best chance since the creation of the United Nations of achieving international peace and security," is to a certain extent to Russia's credit. It can now be hoped that greater weight will be carried with our partners by the words to the effect that, if the reform in Russia peters out and if conservatives join the leadership, then the world will be drawn into a completely new arms race. If the West economizes on kopeks today by delaying a decision to create a ruble stabilization fund, it could lose millions tomorrow.

However, for all the importance of the UN speech, this presentation of the new Russia to the whole world appears just a prologue to the events that occurred the next day. As the result of talks between G. Bush and B. Yeltsin a declaration was signed which states: Russia and the United States do not regard each other as potential enemies. Henceforth their relations will be distinguished by friendship and partnership founded on mutual trust and respect. This document emphasizes that it is a question of a new union of partners opposed to common dangers.

Only yesterday I was grudgingly prepared to agree with those who were declaring: The Americans won the "cold war," while we lost it. As the vanquished side, we must disarm. It is obvious that such an interpretation is rather superficial. It seems not to be shared by those who are called the victors. President Bush displayed readiness to believe in the future of Russia. Not a protectorate, not a banana republic, but a great power. For defeated opponents are not taken on as allies. Still less do people intend to discuss with them the creation of a global system to defend the world community.

Realizing how difficult the path leading to the document signed at Camp David was, I believe that it will be 100 times more difficult to turn it into a real policy. It is not even a matter here of a certain discrepancy between the U.S. and Russian disarmament initiatives (thus, according to Bush's proposal, each of the sides must retain more than 4,000 nuclear warheads, while Yeltsin's initiatives leave 2,000-2,500 each). After all, both proposals represent a good basis for the talks which will begin in Moscow in two weeks' time, when Secretary of State J. Baker will arrive here. It is not even a matter of the considerable cost of the disarmament process for our sick economy.

In my view, the chief danger lies elsewhere. Whereas during the previous five years foreign policy was clearly outstripping domestic policy, now the level and nature of relations with the leading world powers are considerably higher than what exists at present within the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States]. It is no coincidence that a number of mass media [sources] draw attention to

the fact that other sovereign states might feel themselves wounded as a consequence of Russia's foreign policy successes. The first signs of this have, unfortunately, already been manifested. "Yeltsin did not consult with me," Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk declared in an interview with the Italian newspaper LA STAMPA. "His decision causes us great concern. He declared that strategic missiles are no longer targeted on America and the West. One wonders: On whom are they targeted now? We would like to know the new targets. Second, joint space defense with the United States. One wonders: Against whom will it be aimed? Against France and Britain or against Ukraine? Third, at the same time as we have decided to create a national army, Russia has not done so. Strategic arms belong to the CIS. How can the Russian president reduce arms which he does not have?... It is necessary to discuss everything with everyone and not act alone."

Of course, it is possible to argue with the Ukrainian president's interpretations of the Russian initiatives. But, in my view, he is right in that the most important foreign policy aspects, including the disarmament aspect, must undoubtedly be coordinated within the Commonwealth.

Returned From UK With 'Heavy Luggage'

924C0549B Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian No 6, 5 Feb 92 p 9

[Article by LITERATURNAYA GAZETA correspondent Mikhail Ozerov: "Nor Did He Stumble in Britain, Although There Were Apprehensions"]

[Text] London—Britain has, indeed, become a fatal country for your leaders. Those who have visited us recently have soon come to be either "former" or prisoners altogether.

It was not difficult to understand to what Mark Holton, a leading British television reporter, who shivered together with me in the wind outside 10 Downing Street, was referring. In the past six months London had been visited by Gorbachev, Pavlov, Lukyanov...now, while we were awaiting the conclusion of the negotiations of John Major and Boris Yeltsin and their brief news conference, Mark observed that the Russian president was "really a dare-devil, having ventured to visit Albion."

The journalist was joking, it would seem (although, as is known, each joke contains a portion of the truth), but, on the whole, Britons' attitude toward Yeltsin on the eve of the visit was quite reserved. Despite the multitude of articles and television programs about it, the guest remained a "dark horse," and the West had yet to see him in his new capacity—not chief member of the opposition but leader of the country.

For this reason the Russian president was scrutinized literally through a microscope. Everything was noted: how he was dressed, how he shook the prime minister's hand, whether he drained his glass in one go (eyes were simply trained on him here). Of course, parallels with Gorbachev were drawn constantly, although THE TIMES rightly observed that "Mr. Yeltsin should be judged not in comparison with Mr. Gorbachev but by the progress he makes."

Well, progress was made. Important agreements, including the decision to sign a treaty on friendship between Russia and Great Britain—the first such document in 200 years—and on the allocation to us of large-scale credit, were reached in just a few hours of the lightning visit. But it is even more important that this is the start of the road. British leaders intend helping Russia become a part of the new international order and, in particular, will support our joining the International Monetary Fund no later than April.

The visit to London was, it seemed, reminiscent of previous ones: the same ZIL's, the thick wall of "boys" around the guest, the invariable interlocutors—Major, Kinnock, Thatcher...nonetheless, Britons, as they themselves acknowledge, were seeing a new, different, leader, who is going his own, nonstandard, way. This opinion has been reinforced following New York and Camp David; the debutant has become a recognized statesman. This is what I was told on Monday [3 February] by Member of Parliament Bernard Brain:

"Mr. Yeltsin has little experience of international and military matters, but he has a sensible, practical approach to them. He is a true expert on problems of his own country. We can do business with him. Russia has broken with the past, and the West has become its supporter and partner. There is now an opportunity to create a peaceful society free of tyranny and nuclear threat."

Listening to him, I thought that the apprehensions of television reporter Mark Holton were in vain. The Russian president did not "stumble" in Britain, and it will not, let us hope, prove a fatal country for him. It cannot be said that the "Westerners" stuffed his suitcase with banknotes, but he has returned to Moscow with heavy luggage.

Text of Russian-Canadian Declaration Issued

PM0502153792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Feb 92 First Edition p 7

[ITAR-TASS report: "Russian-Canadian Declaration"]

[Text] Ottawa, 2 Feb—The text of the Declaration of Friendship and Cooperation Between the Russian Federation and Canada, signed during Russian President B.N. Yeltsin's visit to Canada, follows below:

The Russian Federation and Canada, wishing to preserve the closeness of Russian-Canadian relations and to take the path of strengthening friendship and cooperation between both countries declare that:

1. The Russian Federation and Canada will develop their relations as friendly states in accordance with the principles of international law, the UN Charter, and international pacts on civil and political rights and on economic, social, and cultural rights, the Helsinki Final Act, the Paris Charter for the New Europe, and other CSCE documents. The sides will expand their cooperation in the United Nations Organization with the aim of strengthening that organization's potential to avert international conflicts, enhancing its role in maintaining peace, and strengthening the organization's position and prestige in international affairs.

2. Canada welcomes the Russian Federation's continued commitment to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its assurances that nuclear weapons will remain under reliable control. Canada also welcomes the Russian Federation's commitment to the fulfillment of all existing pledges to destroy nuclear weapons. Both sides support the efforts aimed at achieving further significant reductions in nuclear weapons. The sides recognize the importance for European security of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe coming into force as soon as possible. In particular, they support the conclusion by the eight member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS], whose territory comes into the area of applicability of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, of an agreement to honor the former USSR's obligations under this treaty. Both sides also pledge to adopt new measures, including export controls, to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery vehicles and to curb the arms trade.

3. The Russian Federation and Canada will act jointly, and also with other foreign partners, with the aim of achieving effective international participation in the process of implementing economic reform in the Russian Federation, especially within the framework of the IMF, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Both sides will promote the creation of favorable conditions for entrepreneurial and other economic activity, especially through capital investments, noting the special significance in this connection of their agreement on incentives for and mutual protection of capital investments and their agreement on avoiding the double taxation of revenue. They will also promote the creation of joint enterprises, the joint training of cadres, including managers, and the familiarization with the legal norms and structures by which a market economy is regulated.

4. The Russian Federation and Canada, in the sphere of their economic relations, will give priority to trade, investment, and financial cooperation in spheres such as power engineering, transportation, construction, telecommunications, the mining and timber industries, agriculture (especially in the sphere of grain), fisheries, and the food industry. Special efforts will be made to attract the Canadian private sector in production and distribution operations in the Russian oil and gas industries. The sides will also actively cooperate in the conversion of the military industry and its transformation into a technologically and economically competitive civilian industry. They deem it important to conclude new Russian-Canadian agreements on trade and economic cooperation.

5. The Russian Federation and Canada recognize the global importance of environmental protection. The sides pledge to continue developing their cooperation in this sphere, on the basis of their bilateral agreement on cooperation on environmental questions and the activity of the Russian-Canadian Mixed Commission on the Environment.

6. The Russian Federation and Canada, being the largest Arctic states, affirm their support for the creation of an International Arctic Council aimed at protecting the Arctic, the peoples who live there, and its resources, at the same time promoting increased prosperity in the region through broadening the cooperation between states in the Arctic region. Taking as their basis the work being done within the framework of implementing the bilateral agreement of cooperation in the Arctic and the North, the sides define as their priority the developement of economic cooperation between the Arctic and Northern regions of Russia and Canada. They pledge to promote direct contacts between local and regional organs of power and the indigenous peoples of the Northern regions of Russia and Canada on the basis of these people's own working agreements.

7. The present declaration is perceived by the sides as an important basis for preparing a Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation Between the Russian Federation and Canada, with the aim of laying firm political and legal foundations for the further development of Russian-Canadian relations.

Khasbulatov Meets With U.S. Economist Volcker

OW0602044192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1400 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Paul Volcker, former chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve, concluded his 3-day visit to Moscow on Wednesday [5 February].

As IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent learned from reliable sources, it is believed that P. Volcker will become another foreign adviser to Russia's government and parliament on financial and monetary policy.

According to preliminary information, in Moscow P. Volcker will be granted an office to be paid for by Russian authorities. Besides, the Russian side will pay his and his staff's wages and transport expenses. As for the consultations, they'll be financed by a number of American government funds.

All these issues are expected to be resolved by April.

'Smoother Transition' to Market Stressed

LD0602120892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, is in favor of a smoother transition by Russia to the market economy. He was expressing his position in a conversation with Paul Volcker, an eminent American economist. The head of the Russian parliament considers that the use of the classical way out of a crisis in Russia would have no special effects apart from the destruction of the economy. He came out in favor of uniting the processes of privatization and reforms in the sphere of credit, finance, and price policy.

17 Billion Rubles in Western Aid Requested

LD0602112292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 6 Feb 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] It has been announced that Russia has asked Western countries for economic assistance amounting to 17 billion rubles. The Western countries demand that consistent economic reforms are carried out as a condition for the granting of any aid.

Aid Official Denies Goods Going to 'Mafia'

LD0602231692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1832 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, 6 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Russia received 240,000 tonnes of food and medicines gratis from abroad last year, and this year the amount could reach 1 million tonnes. These figures were given today by Aleksandr Zhitnikov, head of the Commission for Humanitarian and Technical Aid from Abroad, recently formed by the Russian Government. The newspaper IZVESTIYA today carries an interview with Zhitnikov, who is also the Russian deputy minister for social welfare.

Zhitnikov also stressed that "the absolute majority of goods from abroad" are either purchased by Russia or received against payment in the near future, and that "there is no comparison between the scale of imports and gratis deliveries". For example, he said, in 1992 "Russia alone will use Western loans and credits to procure about 30 million tonnes of bread grain required for baking bread and feeding livestock."

Zhitnikov stated that his commission does not identify the most needy individuals and organizations; since that is left to local authorities. However, the commission is compiling a list of regions and towns "that should receive aid as a matter of priority, and where the situation regarding food and medicines is most at risk with disrupted economic links and falling production." Among them he named Moscow, St. Petersburg, numerous oblasts and autonomous republics in central Russia, the Urals, and Siberia.

He admitted that "it is impossible to exclude misappropriation completely," but he also denied that there is "large-scale theft, with entire feight carloads of food going to the mafia." He said that the presence of the donors themselves during distribution of aid could not guarantee against theft, because "consignments are dispatched to dozens and hundreds of addresses simultaneously."

U.S., European Military Coordinate Airlift

PM0602113292 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Sergey Taranov: "Officers From United States and Europe Serving in...Moscow, on the Humanitarian Aid 'Front'"]

[Text] Pentagon General Roger Walters arrived in Moscow on the night of 4-5 February. The purpose of his visit is to prepare for an airlift from the United States to Russia, by which means a large scale operation to deliver humanitarian aid will begin 10 February.

For some reason many people think that the presence of military men from NATO countries in Moscow is due solely to the desire of the donors of food and medicines to safeguard the cargoes against mass pilfering—they say that officers from the Bundeswehr and the Pentagon will take the place of the "corrupt" Soviet militia during unloading, delivery, and distribution of humanitarian aid. In fact this is not the case.

The need for a NATO military "presence" in Russia is dictated by the nature of many of the cargoes. For instance, 600,000 army food rations prepared last year for the American forces fighting in Kuwait are due to arrive in the wake of General Walters. Naturally, U.S. military aircraft will bring the goods. Walters' mission will be to coordinate the landings and takeoffs at Russian and American airports, not on his own, but in close collaboration with the Russian Government commission on humanitarian and technical aid. General Walters' office is expected to be in the building where the Russian commission is now housed—26, Kirovskiy Passage.

The first rehearsal of the delivery of American military food to Moscow has already taken place, in mid-January. On that occasion two heavy Air Force planes arrived—one with rations and the other with unloading equipment.

A month before the Walters mission, an international team of officers from EC countries started work in Moscow—a total of 55 people from Germany, France, Belgium, Britain, the Netherlands, Italy, and elsewhere, who were housed in the EC Commission's mission at 4, Skatertnyy Alley. In reply to a question on why military, rather than civilian, personnel had come, Catherine

Magnan, an official representative of the EC commission, told me that there was only one reason: It was easiest to mobilize the military for an urgent and prolonged mission from the EC states. Their main task is to organize the delivery of food worth 200 million ECUs [European currency units] to Moscow and St. Petersburg, and also the monitoring of its distribution. Catherine stressed: monitoring, not strict control or interference in the work of the local authorities.

Food from the EC is sold in stores in Moscow and St. Petersburg at fixed prices, and the money thus obtained goes into a social aid fund for those who are poorly off.

The military brigade from Western Europe will be in Russia until the end of March.

U.S. 'Eager To Fill' Vacuum in Indian Ties

PM0602151192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Feb 92 p 5

[Report by correspondent Vladilen Baykov: "A Vacuum Will Always Be Filled"]

[Text] Delhi, 31 Jan—One consequence of the breakup of the Soviet Union was a marked weakening of its links with the biggest power in South Asia—India. "Close and multifaceted" until recently, they are currently going through not the best of times: Stagnation in trade, tiffs over a number of international issues, and uncertainty about future cooperation in the military sphere.

But a vacuum will always be filled. The United States is eager to fill the vacuum that has developed in Soviet-Indian relations and, in the future, totally expel a once formidable rival from India and from Asia altogether.

Washington is especially keen to establish close cooperation with India in the military sphere. At the end of last year and the beginning of this there was a series of visits to India by senior U.S. generals and admirals. General J. Corns, commander of U.S. Ground Forces in the Pacific Ocean region, paid a visit a few days ago. His delegation held talks with the Indian Army command. The results of the talks, the newspaper HINDUSTAN TIMES writes, "imparted new momentum to the growing links between India and the United States." An Indian Defense Ministry spokesman was even clearer: He said the talks had "laid the foundation" for long-term cooperation between the two countries' armies. A joint commission was set up to elaborate the cooperation program. It is reported that it will provide for broad exchange of delegations at a high Army level, the holding of joint exercises, symposiums, and sessions, and the training of Indian officers in the United States.

A similar joint commsision was set up to coordinate the actions of the Indian and U.S. navies. The final accords on this were reached during the recent visit to India by Chief of Naval Operations Admiral F. Kelso. The role the Indian Navy is to play in the Indian Ocean zone was defined at the talks he held with representatives of the Indian Foreign Ministry, Defense Ministry, and Indian Navy. U.S. strategists see India as the main sea power in the region, closely cooperating with the United States to maintain peace in South Asia.

Foreign Investment in Moscow's Economy Listed

OW0502102392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1834 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An INTERFAX correspondent has learned from unofficial sources that a number of foreign companies have opened credit lines for major investment in the economy of Moscow. The following is a list of the main areas of foreign capital investment together with the outlined projects and the companies proposing to take part in them.

1. Recreational areas to be built with foreign capital:
—An Institute of the Hotel Management is to be built with its own hotel at Chapayev Proyezd (near the Sokol Metro Station). The government of Moscow has already passed a resolution allowing land to be used for the building of the Institute. A joint stock company has been formed to handle the building with the Moscow Aviation Production Group, the Dramatic Arts School Theatre and the Kent Group International Inc (USA) as its shareholders. All expcenditure in hard currency is being financed by the Americans. The project is expected to be completed in three years.

A hotel and office block is planned for construction at Lenin Square (near Paveletsky Station). The project will be handled by the Moscow Commercial and Production Enterprise, Mosaero, and the Bikon Company (USA), in the form of a joint venture, the statutory documents for which have already been signed. The total cost will be $240 million with the Americans providing the finance.
A hotel and business center is to be put up at boloshoy Gnezedkovsky Pereulok, No 3. Building will be undertaken by the International Scientific, Technological and Business Cooperation Company on the Russian side and the General Constructing Peroduction Company for the Americans. The cost of the project is $40 million.
A business centre, known as the Vienna Tower, is to be built jointly by the Moscow Mayor's Office and the mayorial authorities in Vienna. The cost of erecting the centre is $420 million and it will be carried out by the Russo-Austrian JV [joint venture], ITC.

2. Land leasing for the purpose of attracting foreign capital:
A business center to be known as Moscow City is planned ot be built and 26 plots have already been apportioned for this project on Krasnopresnensky Val. Financing will be made through the South Korean company, Korea Trade Promotion Corporation (KOTRA), which is opening letters of credit to the value of $28.7 million.

A theatre and hotel complex to be called Star Light Express is to be opened on Korolyov Propspekt. Building will be carried out by the German company, Probst.

3. Attracting foreign capital into manufacture:
This area implies organizing joint manufacture, selling enterprises to foreign companies, or setting up production companies that are exclusively owned by foreign capital and using leasing to subsequently privatize whatever is being leased. A number of companies have already gained access to Moscow's industry through leasing. These include:
The Italian company, Fox Petrol, which has been given space at an experimental factory beloging to the all-Union Institute of Oil Refinery. The Italians plan a turnkey project for the refining of machine oils with a capacity of 50,000 tons [as received] a year. It is expected that the costs will be repaid during the first year of production. Construction is planned to begin in the first quarter of 1992.
The German company, Bong, which has leased a plot of land to begin the recycling of milk packets. Building will begin in the first quarter of 1992.

4. Handling uncompleted construction projects over to foreign companies i.e. construction project for which there are no resources to complete. More than 500 such projects exist in Moscow.

5. Carrying out small-scale projects
The Moscow Government intends to find hard currency funding (evidently by the attraction of foreign investors) for the acquiring and equipping of small scale enterprises to process agricultural produce and manufacture building materials. After they are ready to begin operation, these enterprises will be avabiliable for leasing with the right of subsequent purchase by the entrepreneur. It is believed in the Moscow Government that entreprises of this kind should not prove expensive—$50-300,000.
Some have already been settled upon. They are:
a cheese processing factory with a capacity of thre tons of milk per day.
small meat processing factories capable of handing 1.5 tons of meat per day bakeries [as received]
a factory for the production of roof tiles, hollow blocks, slates, bricks and other building materials.

6. Privatizing the city's businesses
A project in progress with Coca Cola plans the construction of more than 7000 cold soft drink stands in Moscow.
Deliveries of Mercedes Benz automobiles are to be made to the city's taxi garages and 30,000 of these will be privatized by the taxi drivers.

Swiss Hindering Release of Banned CPSU Money

PM0502110992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by Elmar Guseynov: "Party Gold Still in Switzerland"]

[Text] Russia must provide the Swiss authorities with further information about the CPSU's money secretly transferred to banks in Switzerland.

This statement, made by J. Kistler, spokesman of the Swiss Department of Justice and Police, summed up the visit to this country by a Russian delegation headed by Russian General Prosecutor Valentin Stepankov, which was trying to clarify the possibility of recovering the banned CPSU's money which has been transferred to Swiss banks.

Spokesmen of the Russian Prosecutor's Office allege that these resources were "funneled" into Switzerland through the intermediary of economically accountable firms and enterprises controlled by the party. This is not the first attempt by Russia to recover the CPSU's money. However, the evidence furnished by our side is invariably rejected by Switzerland as insufficient.

According to the Swiss National Bank, the country's banks have at present around $1.9 billion in accounts of various organizations of the former CPSU. However, bankers here also stress that the former CPSU's total debt to Swiss financial institutions is at least $2.5 billion.

At the same time, the Swiss are taking definite steps to hinder the removal of resources from the accounts of former Soviet organizations. According to a spokesman of the Association of Swiss Banks, all accounts of the former Soviet Government are at present blocked. However, Swiss bankers have grave doubts about the legality of claims by individual republics of the former USSR to these funds.

Although dealings with legal entities representing the republics of the former USSR have practically ceased now, this does not apply to major transfer and credit operations between Swiss banks and Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus, according to reports from Swiss sources. It is interesting that all the details of these deals are kept in strictest secrecy.

'Fading Momentum' of Peace Process Explored

PM0502102592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Feb 92 p 2

[Article by Lieutenant Colonel R. Mustafin: "Near East Express Passed Through Moscow Station At Snail's Pace. Will It Reach the Next Station?"]

[Text] The Moscow meeting to organize multilateral talks on the Near East has ended. The "talk about talks," conducted under the cochairmanship of the United States and the Russian Federation, resulted, according to V. Petrovskiy, deputy head of the Russian delegation, in the creation of machinery to discuss and resolve such urgent tasks as regional security and arms control, the development of economic cooperation, the improvement of the ecological situation, the utilization of water resources, and the settlement of the refugee problem. "A

start has been made on multilateral cooperation on issues common to the whole region," the Russian diplomat said.

The sides agreed to convene no later than the end of April or the beginning of May sessions of the working groups set up during the two-day talks in Moscow. It will not be possible to do this sooner because of the approach of Muslim and Jewish festivals. The so-called assistance group is to agree the specific timing, duration, and agenda of these working groups. A number of the states that participated in the meeting in the Russian capital have already expressed readiness to receive working groups at the level of experts. Tokyo, for example, could be a venue for discussing questions of environmental protection, and Canada for refugee affairs. Austria and Turkey aspire to the role of hosts of a meeting on the problem of water resources. Experts on arms control and regional security will most likely meet in Washington, and specialists on economic development in Brussels.

There were no sensations at the Moscow meeting. Not that anyone had been expecting any. The Near East knot is too complex and neglected to be untied overnight. At the same time it is hardly possible to agree with the comparison suggested by Russian diplomats. They compared the peace process with a "train" which has just passed through Moscow Station. It would probably be more correct to say that what happened in Moscow resembled, rather, the movement of a snail, if not marking time.

At any rate, Syria's refusal to get on this train because it was dissatisfied with the results of the bilateral talks does nothing to increase confidence that the peace process will be able to negotiate the next section. The next round of bilateral talks is planned for February. Damascus and Beirut, which emulates its "elder brother," have swelled the ranks (temporarily, let us hope) of the "traditional refuseniks"—Iraq, Iran, and Libya, which reject outright the very idea of any talks with the "Zionist enemy." Of course, at present there can be no question of the Syrians' forming any bloc with the Iraqis. However, the very absence of Syria—a key Near East state—from the discussion of questions such as regional security makes it pointless to hold further talks.

The Palestinian refugees are another problem. Without the participation of representatives of the Palestinian diaspora it is hard to imagine how it can be resolved. Moscow and Washington have cautiously hinted that a change to the Madrid formula, which provides for the participation only of representatives of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the talks, is possible. Israel is opposed to such an option.

Whichever way you look at it, compromises are needed to maintain the fading momentum of the peace process. Syria's refusal to come to Moscow, which for a long time was an unfailing sponsor of Damascus, should probably be viewed as a clear signal, a warning that the Arabs now await a compromise step from Tel Aviv, while from Washington and Moscow they await assistance in convincing the Israelis of the need for certain concessions. To judge from conversations in the lobby of the Moscow meeting, a section of the Arabs was not greatly impressed with the words of A. Kozyrev, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry, about a desire to pursue a balanced policy in the Near East, proceeding from one's own economic interests, and not to divide the Near East states into "ours and not ours."

In addition to the Russian delegation, the Moscow talks were also attended by a Ukrainian one, as well as by one observer each from Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan. This fact should probably be viewed in such a way that not only countries in "distant foreign parts" are seeking to break into the Near East arena, where a definite vacuum has come about with the breakup of the USSR. This applies particularly to Japan and China, which recently have appreciably activated their policy in that region. The new independent states of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] also see a sphere of activity for themselves there. It is still too soon to say entirely for certain what the policy of these states will be in the Near East. For the time being, rather, they are taking a close look and making their first estimations. But it is becoming obvious that a concerted position on the part of the interested CIS countries is required in the interests both of the Near East process and of the Commonwealth.

Palestinian Issue Left 'Nasty Aftertaste'

PM0502164192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Feb 92 p 4

["My Opinion" article by Yuriy Glukhov: "The Palestinian Nail in the Moscow Meeting Chairs"]

[Text] What was bound to happen did happen. The question of independent Palestinian participation in the Near East talks reared its ugly head. It was like a nail poking through the soft diplomatic upholstery of the chairs at the Moscow meeting on the Near East. It could be neither hammered back nor prized out.

The question remains open even after the Moscow conference. I would remind you that the Palestinian delegation that came to Moscow remained outside the conference. It was accused of violating the previous accords of the so-called Madrid formula. According to it, the Palestinians participate in the Near East negotiating process only as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Moreover, inhabitants of Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem and representatives of the Palestinian diaspora—those living outside the occupied West Bank of the River Jordan and Gaza Strip—are prohibited from participating in the talks.

As a result, only three members of the Palestinian delegation that arrived in Moscow were acceptable to the Israelis. The rest, including prominent Palestinian figure Faysal al-Husayni and the delegation's official spokeswoman H. 'Ashrawi, were personae non gratae.

Whatever arguments you adduce in defense of the Madrid formula, it is clearly flawed. It is absurd when one of the sides in the negotiations decides the composition of the other side's delegation. That does not happen even when an act of capitulation is being signed. Our minds—democracy-soaked sponges—simply cannot take in the selective practice of Palestinian representation, the exclusion of entire groups of the population. In our country we watch the Armenian or Georgian diaspora, scattered throughout the former Union, participating in a presidential election, deciding the future of Armenia or Georgia. That is quite natural. We watch hundreds of thousands of former Soviet Jews go to Israel. That is normal. It is abnormal when the Palestinians, who find themselves outside their homeland certainly not of their own free will, are deprived of those rights.

I would not want to question the Near East settlement process itself. It is fruitful, useful, and vital. But as for the Madrid formula, it has a touch of the Munich about it. It is clearly discriminatory as far as the Palestinians are concerned and could only be accepted by them under pressure, in a moment of weakness.

It cannot be expected to last for long. The Palestinians had to declare their own national merits not face-to-face with the Israelis at bilateral talks, but at an international forum. Otherwise they would lose their sense of self-respect and the respect of others. The Israelis and the cochairmen are probably surprised it has all happened so quickly. But we who witnessed the sudden demolition of the Novo-Ogarevo accords on the Union are not surprised by this. Social development processes have become so fast that all armchair schemes crumble.

But the denial of independent Palestinian participation in the talks is not that innocuous a stunt. It leads to a denial of the very existence of the Palestinian issue, the issue of the occupied lands. Whether accidentally or not, Israeli Foreign Minister D. Levi, in his speech at the Moscow conference, committed a slip of the tongue concerning the border between Israel and Jordan, although they are separated by occupied Palestinian lands. The Arabs' reaction was one of anger. At a news conference the Israeli delegation tried to play down the impression that had been made. But the damage had been done. Moreover, there actually exist plans for expelling the Palestinians from the West Bank and from Gaza and for turning Jordan into a Palestinian state.

The U.S. secretary of state expressed regret that the United Nations had not participated in the Moscow meeting. But it was basically unnecessary and inconvenient for the Americans and the Israelis. For example, the PLO is represented in the United Nations as an observer, and Israel cannot tolerate it. In its resolutions the United Nations acknowledges the Palestinians' right to self-determination, including the creation of their own state, which is rejected by Israel and the United States.

After the scandal over the Palestinian presence at the Moscow conference there were promises at cochairman—United States and Russia—level to revise the Madrid formula. There is talk of Palestinians directly participating in the negotiating group on refugees. I do not think this will satisfy them, because you cannot reduce the Palestinian problem to one of refugees. Indeed, the Russian delegation at the news conference also confirmed recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination, without stipulating its form.

The Moscow meeting has ended and its participants have gone home. But the scandal over the Palestinians has left a nasty aftertaste. We talk about a civilized society and civilized behavior. We hold up Western democracies as an example. But the treatment of the Palestinians resembles a "civilizing mission" in the period when the "wild West" was being won. We know what became of the American Indians.

Arms Sales, Relations With Iran Viewed

PM0602162892 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Article by Vladimir Skosyrev: "Iran: Superpower of the Persian Gulf Builds Up Its Military Might With Moscow's Help"]

[Text] While the new "sovereign republics" are sharing out the military legacy of the collapsed Soviet empire, our southern neighbor Iran is wasting no time in arming itself.

The pace of the buildup of muscle in the Islamic Republic is such that it is turning into the superpower of the Persian Gulf. Whereas formerly the Saddam Husayn regime claimed that place, since the failure of his adventure against Kuwait, Iran has become the dominant force. In terms of the level of military might it has already achieved parity with Iraq and will soon surpass it, thanks to weapons purchases on a mass scale.

Cash and Carry

Who plays the part of the main supplier? A spokesman for the Washington administration claims that we sold Iran Su-24 fighter-bombers, MiG-29's, T-72 tanks, and other up-to-date equipment to a sum of $1 billion last year, while this year the volume of deliveries will exceed that sum. Deals are concluded on the "cash and carry" principle. Being urgently in need of hard currency, Moscow is selling off the weapons stockpiles accumulated by the Soviet Army at cut prices. In particular, T-72 tanks, which cost millions of dollars, are supposedly going for $50,000 apiece.

The LOS ANGELES TIMES, citing a source in the U.S. government, writes that apart from conventional weapons, "nonconventional" types of weapons are also being sent to Iran, in particular missiles, and also the results of nuclear research. Iran is also making similar deals with North Korea, Argentina, and other countries.

Here several questions immediately arise. The first is this: Are the figures published by the Americans true? Could they be slandering Tehran? This story also shows Russia in a poor light, as promoting, intentionally or otherwise, the birth of a new center of military might. So what does the Russian Foreign Ministry think about it? The ministry admitted that very large-scale cooperation in the defense sphere has become established between Russia and Iran.

"We understand the U.S. concern and we also do not want an arms race to be unleashed in the Persian Gulf. But we have our interests too: first, economic interests (convertible currency!), and second, Iran is for us a neighboring and friendly state," a Russian diplomat said. "It would be absurd to ignore its requirements in the defense sphere. Nowadays you refuse deliveries of military equipment only to your enemies.

"Iran is by no means in that category of states. It pursues a fairly restrained independent policy and offers no reason to describe it as aggressive."

[Skosyrev] "What about nuclear technologies?"

[Diplomat] "There is no cooperation in this sphere. There is not even an agreement on the peaceful utilization of nuclear power between us and Iran. So these reports are false."

The information provided by the Foreign Ministry is food for thought. On the one hand, clearly there is no smoke without fire, and the Americans did not get alarmed for nothing. On the other hand, it would be wrong to do as they do and expect the worst from Tehran. The fact is that Tehran's foreign policy is not susceptible to straightforward analysis. To paraphrase the leader of the world proletariat, you could say that it is influenced by both state and revolution.

All this was clear under the Ayatollah Khomeyni. The stern old man believed that God had charged Iran with the mission of exporting the Islamic revolution to those Muslim states that he considered were anti-Islamic or pro-Western, or had sold out. As a result Iran's former allies, headed by the Americans, became its implacable enemies. In those comparatively simple times revolutionary Iran came out against most of the world, and the world, in turn, was inclined to be against Iran.

State Versus Revolution

Khomeyni's successors are pursuing a far more complex course, attaching paramount importance to the interests of state, rather than revolution, while at the same time continuing to swear loyalty to the ayatollah's precepts. This obvious contradiction between word and deed was clearly manifested in the assessment of events in Algeria. Officially, Tehran is seething with indignation. Even the usually cautious and diplomatic President 'A. A. Hashemi-Rafsanjani accused the Algerian leaders of failing the test of democracy and covering themselves in shame. But the loud condemnation is not backed up by action. Tehran does not intend to send either volunteers or weapons to support the suffering brothers in the faith. Indeed, speaking at a ceremony to mark the 12th anniversary of the revolution in Iran, the president called on Muslim movements to observe, and not violate, the norms of international law. Among the guests from more than 47 countries who were listening to Hashemi-Rafsanjani was Shaykh Fadlallah, spiritual leader of the Hizballah party from Lebanon. In the early eighties, people close to the ayatollah helped to form that party, and its militants, in turn, started taking Western citizens hostage in Lebanon.

The meaning of the president's appeal must have been clear to the shaykh, and to the other listeners. Tehran was basically instructing its followers: It is time to stop the terrorist acts and hostage-taking. In fact, in relation to Americans and Britons this directive has already been implemented. All the U.S. and British citizens who were held captive by groupings associated with Hizballah have been released. This, Hashemi-Rafsanjani hopes, should help Iran to build bridges with the West.

The transformation of yesterday's disturber of the peace into an exemplary citizen of the international community is further promoted by the mild approach to the monarchs of the Persian Gulf. The days are gone when Saudi Arabia, which adheres to a different branch of the fundamentalist faith, was seen by Tehran as its worst enemy. Diplomatic relations have been restored. The pilgrimage of the Iranian faithful to Mecca, which under the ayatollah used to involve bloody clashes with the police and a flurry of demonstrations, last year passed off without a hitch. Links with the other oil emirates of the Gulf are also developing so smoothly now that for the first time Iran has put numerous specimens of military hardware of its own manufacture on exhibition in the emirate of Dubai.

Since everything is looking so good, then why, one wonders, are Washington and, indeed, London expressing concern about Iran's large-scale arms purchases? I think these misgivings are not unfounded. In this theocracy it is not only the pragmatic president and the Foreign Ministry who determine foreign policy. It is also influenced by the radical mullahs, who would like to turn the clock back to the days when Tehran was concerned less about the country's national interests and more about spreading Khomeyni's revolutionary ideas through the Islamic world.

Who Killed the Former Premier

The head of the "party" of advocates of an uncompromising anti-American line is said to be A. Mohtashemi, formerly minister of the interior, who, incidentally, was personally involved in the formation of the Hizbollah party in Lebanon. Radical religious figures have their supporters in all state institutions, have considerable funds at their disposal, and are able to take action abroad irrespective of the government's will. The West believes

that these were the people who were involved in the Paris murder of S. Bakhtiar, the prominent oppositionist and the last premier in the shah's government.

Be that as it may, the murder, which is believed to have been carried out by an Iranian Embassy staffer, provides grounds for suspecting that there are circles in Iran that have not renounced their support for terrorism. This is mentioned in a U.S. State Department report. Of course, Washington also does not like the fact that the government of Iran has anathematized the direct talks between the Arabs and Israel that have begun under U.S. and Russian auspices. If the Iranian imams call Palestinians who sit down at the negotiating table with Israelis "traitors," it is no joke. In Lebanon and the occupied territories there are intransigent Islamists who have long been threatening to settle scores with Arabs who advocate compromise with Israel.

All this brings us back to the problem raised at the beginning of the article: whether it is expedient for Russia to develop military cooperation with Iran, if our new friends across the ocean still do not trust it. The answer should, I am convinced, be affirmative. And it is not only a matter of financial considerations, but also of geopolitical realities. There is no way that Russia can put itself on the same footing as the United States or the EC members, if only because good-neighborly relations with Iran guarantee the security of the southern border of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States].

Especially since during the Union's disintegration Tehran has pursued a very cautious policy and offered no grounds to accuse it of expansionist claims. Yet unfortunately such accusations appear fairly frequently in our mass media. Take, for instance, the assertion by A. Gurnov, presenter of the television program "Vesti," that Iran is scheming to annex Azerbaijan.

Pandora's Box

A report like that, broadcast in the evening, could deprive some viewers of their sleep. If, of course, they took it seriously. But it should not be taken seriously. For Iran, where, according to Western sources, some 20 million Azerbaijanis live, the Azerbaijani question is a Pandora's box. Open it, and the state's territorial integrity will be put in jeopardy. It is not surprising that Tehran expressed displeasure when at certain points on the border between Iran and the former Nakhichevan ASSR [Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic] border fortifications were destroyed on our side.

I have discussed events in the CIS with Iranian politicians and diplomats on several occasions. I received the very clear impression that they are extremely concerned that our disorders and interethnic strife should not spill over into their territory. The main desire is to maintain stable, mutually beneficial ties with us. Incidentally, that was Khomeyni's wish too.

The government's attitude to the internal crisis affecting its northern neighbor was expressed unequivocally in an editorial commentary in the TEHRAN TIMES. The disintegration of the USSR, it said, did not please the Islamic Republic. Political instability in the new independent republics of the former USSR constitutes a considerable danger to the national interests of Iran, which has nearly 2,000 km of common borders with them.

True, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and, indeed, other Iranian leaders make no secret of their delight that in Azerbaijan and Central Asia "after 70 years of Marxist oppression, Islam has triumphed." Well, such statements may not be to everyone's taste here. The same goes for the assurances of imams from Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan that they are ready to help spread Islamic values in the former Soviet republics. But why, in fact, should we take these as a threat if it is a question of promoting spiritual and cultural ties rather than forcible intervention from outside in our accustomed way of life?

The other day the DPA agency disseminated a report to the effect that Iran, which is engaged in a struggle with Turkey for influence in Central Asia, would like to open its own schools there. I checked this report with an Iranian diplomat. If the republics are interested, we could discuss terms for sending Persian language teachers there, he said. But of course, the teachers will only be able to go if they are invited.

It follows from the above that by helping our neighbor to create its own military potential we are not doing ourselves any harm. On condition, of course, that we have clearly defined the limit beyond which Russian military deliveries could result in the disruption of stability in the unquiet region of the Middle East. But was this factor taken into account? What about the question of selling military hardware at giveaway prices? All this is a closely guarded secret.

In days of yore, when the Union parliament still existed, within its walls demands used to be heard for all major military deliveries abroad to receive preliminary approval from deputies. We all know what happened to the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the parliamentarians' demand (which, incidentally, was justified) accordingly turned into thin air. But since vitally important questions are still decided by civil servants in the quiet of their offices, we have no reason to be offended with the Western press. Let it publish farfetched reports on Russian weapons sales from time to time, sullying Moscow's reputation; our "secrets" still remain unrevealed.

UN Efforts in Afghan Conflict Supported

LD0602133292 Moscow TASS in English 1045 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow February 6 TASS—A Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman made a statement here today saying: "Eager to do away as soon as possible with the consequences of the involvement of the former Soviet Union in the Afghan conflict and to help bring peace to Afghanistan, Russia supports all efforts in this direction

and particularly specific steps by such an authoritative international figure as the U.N. secretary-general."

"We see in Butrus Ghali's statement, which was circulated at the United Nations, a confirmation of the continuity to the programme of his predecessor, which preserves its importance as a sturdy foundation for speeding up efforts to achieve a settlement in Afghanistan.

"In Moscow, we are prepared for the closest interaction with the U.N. secretary-general and all parties concerned to attain this goal."

'Satisfied' That Pakistan Stopped Arms Supplies

OW3001154692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1415 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Foreign Ministry has been informed that Pakistan stopped supplying the Afghan mujaheddin with arms. One of its highranking officials said that these reports had been confirmed by sources in both Islamabad and Washington. Russian diplomats said they are satisfied with this. Nevertheless they noted that Saudi Arabia has not joined the embargo on all arms shipments to the warring sides in Afghanistan yet.

Late last year, in accordance with the agreement they reached earlier, Moscow and Washington stopped their arms supplies to the Kabul regime and to the forces opposing it.

According to reports from Afghanistan, military actions there have slackened.

Egypt's 'Amr Musa Reviews 'Vistas of Exchange'

LD0302114192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1400 GMT 31 Jan 92

["Second part" of interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by unidentified Radio Moscow correspondent in Moscow; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. 'Amr Musa, the second part of our interview deals with the bilateral relations between Russia and Egypt. How do you see these relations at present?

[Musa] The relations between the Egyptian people and the Russian people and between Cairo and Moscow have always been good relations. The two countries are old and have contributed to the European, Mediterranean, and Arab civilizations. Each of the two countries has its role in its region and beyond it.

For this reason, it is very important for us to see this relationship continued and become stronger between Egypt and Russia. This matter has in fact formed part of the discussions I had today with Foreign Minister Mr. Kozyrev. The exchange of visits will continue between the two countries with a view to bolstering trade, economic, cultural, and political relations. This is a matter which is of great importance to us in Egypt. I was happy today to learn from Foreign Minister Kozyrev that Russia too was interested in the bolstering of its relations with Egypt.

[Correspondent] Mr. Foreign Minister, we know that at present there are some difficulties in the economic and trade relations between Russia and Egypt. This is firstly because Egypt owes a debt to Russia for the last year. How do you see the future of trade and economic relations between our two countries?

[Musa] I can see wide vistas for trade exchange and economic relations. We have recently, in the first month signed a trade agreement between Cairo and Moscow. The agreement provides for a trade exchange of about 200 million pounds sterling. We will continue to bolster these relations. The trade balance is at present in Egypt's favor, but there are also debts Egypt owes to the USSR. This proves that the relations between the two countries are active relations, whether in the trade or economic or other fields.

There is also the new situation; namely, the rebuilding in Russia and the replanning in Egypt. There is also the perestroika and the giving of a big role to the private sector.

All these things will give a push forward to the relations between the two peoples on all levels: the levels of government, the private sector, and so on. It is a fact that the private sector is faster in matters of relations. As soon as opportunity arises for participation, investment, cooperation, and trade, it rushes to seize it.

For this reason, I feel that the vistas of exchange between Egypt and Russia in the trade field are wide.

[Correspondent] One last question, Mr. Foreign Minister. The conditions in Russia have now changed, though the situation is still unstable in as the Russian and foreign papers say. [sentence as heard] Is the Egyptian private sector prepared to make investments in the Russian economy and in what fields could such investments be made?

[Musa] I believe that the private sector in Egypt was ready to cooperate in the field of investment. There is a number of Egyptian businessmen here now to conclude agreement on a number of joint projects and explore new fields for cooperation.

I believe there is wide opportunities for cooperation, and the two peoples and two countries and the business community in both sides should seize these opportunities to bolster these relations and increase trade exchange between the two countries.

[Correspondent] At the end of this interview, I wish to thank you for your parfticipation in this episode. Many thanks.

German Official Urges Resettlement of Germans

LD3101232792 Moscow TASS in English 1825 GMT 28 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Viktor Chistyakov]

[Text] Bonn January 28 TASS—Wilfried Boehm, member of German parliament from the Christian Democratic Union, declared for "organised resettlement" in Germany of ethnic Germans residing in Russia. He made this suggestion during a debate on prospects for the restoration of the Volga German Republic.

The FRG Government considers the autonomy of ethnic Germans in Russia numbering about two million from the point of finding an opportunity to arrest the flow of repatriates to Germany, Boehm said in an interview with the newspaper DIE WELT. He said there must be order in the return of Germans to their historic land. One of the ways of introducing order is quotas for repatriates, for instance, from 200 to 250 thousand people a year. Then Germans would be certain that all those wishing to leave will be able to leave for Germany within a few years.

Boehm dismissed arguments that social conflicts and financial difficulties may aggravate in Germany in connection with repatriates' return. "Germany is now experiencing a demographic crisis and is in need of repatriates", he said. "It would be better for us to decide who can leave for the country, instead of granting this right to criminal rings organising illegal transportation of immigrants".

At the same time, Boehm favoured the creation of the Russian-German republic of Koenigsberg in the area of Kaliningrad. He visualises it as "a genuine community of peoples and cultures". Boehm said about one third of ethnic Germans in the former USSR are prepared to move to former Eastern Prussia. No time should be lost, since Polish entrepreneurs are interested in renting plots of land in the Kaliningrad region, he said.

Policy on Volga German Republic Examined

924C0363A Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian No 3, 15 Jan 92 p 9

[Article by Valentin Zapevalov, LITERATURNAYA GAZETA correspondent, followed by statement by the Executive Committee of the Russian-German Association "Mulheim Initiative": "Slip of the Tongue or a Change in Policy?]

[Text] **View from the Shores of the Rhine**

Bonn—After Boris Yeltsin's visit to the FRG in November last year it seemed to everyone—in Bonn and to the Russian Germans—that the ice had finally broken: the enthusiastic federal government doubled the allocations "for assistance in the construction of the Volga German Republic" for 1992 to 200 million deutsche marks!

However, the Russian president's Saratov statement caused some confusion in Bonn, to put it mildly. "The establishment of the Volga German Republic is being boxed in with new conditions that were not mentioned earlier. Is this a change in policy or a need on Yeltsin's part to maneuver under a wave of protests from opponents of the republic?" I was asked by someone close to Chancellor Kohl. He decided not to give his name to the press—it is a painfully delicate subject, and I do not want "to harm myself." But he assured me that the federal government understands the full complexity of the problem and is prepared jointly with the Russian authorities to find a resolution to it. "We are not at all interested in the emergence on the Volga of a new Nagorno Karabakh," my interlocutor noted.

A natural question is what then is Bonn's interest, and what is it trying to achieve through a Volga republic and other German autonomies?

In a tactical sense, using military terminology, to stop the flow of our emigrants into Germany. After all, in the last three years alone more than 380,000 Germans left for the FRG. But another half million exit applications now lie in the Moscow embassy. Even such a powerful state as a united Germany cannot cope with such an avalanche.

There is also a long-range strategic aim in Bonn's actions. However deplorable our economy might look now, the Russian market is boundless and attractive. The federal government and business circles also see strong support for German capital in Russia both in a Volga German Republic and in a free economic zone in Kaliningrad.

The emergence of a Volga German Republic should only be welcomed. After all, everyone will win from this in the end. The qualified German labor force will be preserved. German capital and modern technology will flow to the Volga. A distinctive laboratory will emerge for the introduction into Russia of a market structure, in which the FRG is a world recordholder. Like ripples in water, the effect will be that neighboring krays and oblasts will begin to stand on their feet. Indeed, the doors to the republic on the Volga itself will not be closed to Russians. Surely there will be significantly less Germans there than 90 percent. Therefore, it is hardly necessary for our politicians to establish some kind of artificial percentage barriers...

Statement of the "Mulheim Initiative"

Speaking at a meeting with the local populace during his recent visit to Saratov Oblast, President of Russia B.N. Yeltsin made a short but very fundamental statement regarding the future of Russian Germans. The concept, spirit, and tone of the statement cannot fail to cause confusion and concern.

The impression is created by this statement, delivered, incidentally, in very resolute and stern tones, that the president has changed his recent positions on the problems of the autonomy of Russian Germans. After all, it

was only in November of last year during a visit to Germany that B.N. Yeltsin declared his intention to promote the restoration of German autonomy in places of the historical settlement of Germans in Russia. This memorable speech by the president of Russia was interpreted with satisfaction in Bonn and by members of the Russian-German association "Mulheim Initiative," of which LITERATURNAYA GAZETA is a founder. It became an impetus for the development of our own program for the organization of assistance to the Russian Germans.

But now the impression is created that the head of the Russian state in fact does not leave any hope for the two million to regain their statehood, of which they were deprived 50 years ago, when people who were not guilty of anything were subjected to exile, persecution, and repression. The president's announcement in Saratov Oblast is contrary to the decision of the Congress of People's Deputies of Russia, which proclaimed the full rehabilitation and restoration of justice with respect to people who have been repressed in the past.

There is no doubt that this statement by the president will accelerate the flow of emigration of Germans from Russia, and that henceforth those departing for the West will be viewed not as emigres but as refugees who are seeking the protection of their rights.

Russia is losing people who are practical, industrious, and loyal to it. The new factor of ethnic destabilization is emerging in the country.

The rejection of a reasonable and constitutional resolution of the problem of the statehood of the Russian Germans will unquestionably also be reflected in future relations between Germany and Russia, which had assumed such an excellent prospect.

We express the hope that the president of the Russian Republic will find it possible to speak out on this problem in a more detailed, well-reasoned, and clear way, and that in the final analysis he will do everything to ensure that the more than two million Russian German people, who are an integral part of the entire Russian people, really feel themselves equal in the new and transformed Russia.

Prospects for Relations With Cuba Explored

PY0502223492 Moscow Radio Moscow in Spanish to Cuba 0130 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Friends, the process to create a Russian MINREX—Russian Foreign Ministry—continues. Foreign policy conceptions are being established within the Russian Federation. What are the prospects for Russian relations with Cuba, with Russia as the heir of the former Soviet Union? This question was put to Aleksey Yermakov, leader of the Cuban Section of the Russian MINREX.

[Yermakov in Russian fading into Spanish report] There has been an exchange of messages between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Cuban President Fidel Castro, says Aleksey Yermakov.

This happened a month ago. In their notes the two leaders discussed questions of principle points affecting relations between the two countries. In December Cuba officially recognized Russia as an independent state, as it did with the Baltic states and the Ukraine. Cuba is now establishing contacts with those countries. The Russian Foreign Ministry is elaborating what will be its foreign policy towards Cuba. Naturally, we are analyzing the question very seriously in accordance with the republic's interests. We want to see if can keep coordinating our foreign political actions with Cuba. [as received] It is known that Cuba is very active in international organizations like the United Nations, and is a very influential member of the Nonaligned Movement.

It is not realistic to expect that the two countries will maintain the same view on all international problems as in the past. Russia's entry into the international arena as an independent state will affect its foreign policy and the emphasis it will place on democratic principles. It will also place more emphasis on humanitarian problems and human rights. We intend to build on existing relations [words indistinct] including that of Cuba.

How will our economic and commercial relations with Cuba develop? I have proposed that for the time being both parties agree on a trade volume for 1992.

[Yermakov in Russian fading into Spanish report] The Russian Foreign Ministry in general, and especially our section, will carefully follow the developments that affect economic and trade relations with Cuba, (Yermakov) said. We will work to structure the trade of oil and sugar at international prices and to keep our trade balanced. Complex issues will have to be solved bofore we can decide on future construction works that are presently being carried out with our cooperation in Cuba. At this time we are involved in 30 construction projects, including a nuclear power plant, in Cuba. The investment in those works, if we calculate them in freely exchangable currency, totals nearly $2.3 billion. We cannot leave investments so large without attention. There are also serious concerns about Cuba's foreign debt with our country. This debt tops the very considerable amount of 17 (?trillion) rubles. We will have to decide what to do about this debt. The decision will have to be taken in coordination with CIS member countries and other former members of the Soviet Union.

[Yermakov in Russian fading into Spanish report] Regrettably, I must say, the dialogue is being delayed by Cuba, said Yermakov. We still have not discussed the volume of trade or the conditions for payment for this year. We think this process has to be speeded up. Russian economic departments, which are also moving rather slowly, must move quicker said Yermakov, leader of the Cuban section of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Cuban Embassy Employees Involved in Protest

924C0534A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Jan 92 pp 1, 2

[Report by Leonid Velekhov [L.V.]: "Castro People Break Up Peaceful Demonstration on Russian Soil"; subtitled "Vesti Was the Only One of All the World's Television Programs To Buy the Provocation at the Cuban Embassy"]

[Text] The "Vesti" program reported on 25 January that a demonstration by Cubans living in the capital expressing their support for Fidel Castro's policy course had taken place at the Cuban Embassy in Moscow. Several persons spoke against Castro and despite their lack of numbers, they were so assertive that they provoked a brawl which had to be broken up by the Moscow militia.

In actual fact, all the circumstances were entirely different. Back at the start of last week the association of Cubans living and studying in Russia and who are of an opposition persuasion in respect of the Castro regime—in other words, the "Cuban Union" organization of Cuban nonreturnee-dissidents—had planned a demonstration for Saturday [25 January] at their motherland's embassy. The demonstrators' purpose was to express a protest against the execution of Eduardo Diez Betancourt, a Cuban from Miami who had illegally made his way to Cuba on the last days of last year, had been seized by the police, and who was executed last Monday by the Cuban authorities.

The demonstration was naturally intended to be purely peaceful and absolutely public. Notice thereof was given by the mass media and foreign, including Cuban, correspondents. By 12 noon the participants, singly and in small groups, had begun to approach the embassy building on Mosfilmovskaya, thinking to take up position at the fence, unfold their prepared placards, read out a declaration, and then peacefully go home. The demonstrators, who were approaching one by one, saw from afar a crowd gathered at the embassy gate—about 150 persons excitedly stamping their feet with the Cuban flag fluttering overhead. At the approach of the first wholly unsuspecting participants in the demonstration (the latter even thought from pure innocence that these were sympathizers who were awaiting them, and quickened their pace) the crowd, which upon closer examination turned out to be employees of the Cuban Embassy, encircled them and in the best traditions of a Cuban political carnival, examples of which the world has seen repeatedly on the television news of recent years, began to shower them with oaths and insults, alternating the vulgarities with bombast such as "motherland or death!" "Fidel, smash the Yankee!" (?—L.V.), and so forth. Grabbing one demonstrator, a fifth-year Moscow University student named Mariela, who was five months pregnant, the defenders of Cuba's socialist choice attempted to force her also to shout: "Viva, Castro!" but having no success, they bloodied her face, threw her to the ground, and began kicking her. The same fate befell Ariadna Blinova, a member of the Russian Committee for the Defense of Human Rights, who had attempted to go to her assistance. It was at this point that the Moscow militia finally intervened and saved the women from further punishment.

The demonstrators realized that they had fallen into a trap, but were resolved not to retreat. One of them, Alvaro Alba Cruz, still attempted to unroll a home-made placard, which proclaimed: "Down With the Bearded Stalin!" for which he was immediately thrown to the ground together with it and beaten up. The same befell even his two-year-old son, whose fur coat was torn and whose presence at this venture testifies, of course, to a certain paternal carelessness, but at the same time irrefutably confirms the purely peaceful nature of the action conceived by the "Cuban Union." Several other persons, including Jesus Rodriguez, a student at the all-Union State Cinematography Institute, were beaten up.

According to confidential, but absolutely trustworthy, information, the participants in the "revolutionary repulse" had been summoned to work on Saturday for "Jose Marti duty" and evidently to raise their fighting morale. In three and a half hours, by 1200, their morale had been raised to an unscalable height from which it was brought crashing down on the heads of the unsuspecting peaceful demonstrators. After the "combat duty" was over, its valiant participants, evidently having worked up a real sweat dealing with pregnant women and tearing children's coats, were served a hot meal delivered from inside the embassy. All this, incidentally, was caught by the cameras of Mexican and Spanish television crews, which proved to be much more professional and conscientious than their Russian colleagues. And many TV channels of other countries—Mexico, Chile, the United States, Spain—that same evening carried truthful—not sham, as with us in Russia—information about what happened under the noses of Russian television.

All this represents, of course, an incident unprecedented in world diplomatic practice, however you look at it. Embassy employees mimicking at its gate a mass meeting in support of their own government. Whoever has seen such a thing? They beat up participants in an opposition demonstration. Whoever has heard of such a thing? What demonstrations the world over are not staged outside the walls of different embassies, particularly those representing such odious regimes as the Cuban regime! What have the Cubans themselves not done in recent years outside the doors of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, organizing there days-long orgies and "dances of anger" and throwing eggs at diplomatic cars!

And this incident has one further extremely unpleasant context. Russia is one of the few civilized states which has not responded in any way at all to the execution of the Cuban from Miami and the repressive measures unleashed against dissidents in Cuba in the wake of this.

Despite all his vigorous efforts, Russian Deputy Aleksey Surkov did not manage to get the Supreme Soviet to carry a statement condemning the execution in Havana and had to confine himself to an appeal signed by a number of deputies and distributed in parliament (which, if only partially, saved the honor of Russia's supreme authority).

Having broken up a peaceful demonstration on Russian soil, Castro's people paid back Russia a hundredfold for its age-old collaborationism and unscrupulous attitude toward regimes on which the entire civilized world has long since turned its back.

Japanese 'Flexibility' on Territories Cited

LD0602073292 Moscow TASS in English 1202 GMT 4 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo February 4 (TASS)—Displaying "flexibility" at territorial talks with Russia, Tokyo has announced its readiness to adopt a "political decision" concerning the future of the present population of the South Kuril islands. It is to be granted the right of permanent residence on the islands, if the latter are handed over to Japan.

Addressing a news conference here on Monday [3 February], general secretary of the Japanese cabinet of ministers Koichi Kato said that corresponding authorities would be instructed to carefully elaborate all the attendant legal, property and social problems. He said the legal aspects of the possible residence of present-day Russian citizens on Japanese territory remained absolutely unstudied and that only a "political decision" was now considered.

Meeting leaders of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa officially expressed readiness on Monday to consider the question of granting the "right of permanent residence" in Japan to the present-day population of Iturup, Kunashir, Shikotan and Habomai islands. He said compensation would be guaranteed to those who wished to go to Russia when the South Kuril islands are placed under Japanese jurisdiction. Judging by everything, this idea was supported by leaders of the ruling party.

For instance, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's political council Yoshiro Mori went on record for the creation of a definite "social basis" for the present population of this region by "making their life easier".

These pronouncements show that Tokyo is striving to switch the territorial talks with Moscow from the stage of "general deliberations" to the discussion of concrete problems linked with the transfer of these islands to Japan. Equally obvious is Tokyo's attempt to placate the population of the South Kuril islands, most of whom are now opposed to their return to Japan.

The current step is obviously timed for the Moscow meeting of the bilateral working group, scheduled for February 10-11, which is to draw up a peace treaty—the first one after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Trying to seize the initiative, Tokyo is putting forward these proposals on the eve of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Japan, scheduled for March, and before President Yeltsin's official visit to Japan, expected to take place in September.

Kurils 'Principle Ground'

LD0602053492 Moscow TASS in English 1154 GMT 4 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo February 4 (TASS)—The Japanese government does not think an official visit of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, scheduled for mid-September, will solve the problem of Northern Territories (four southern islands of Kuril given to Russia after Japan's defeat in Second World War), Koichi Kato, general secretary of the cabinet, announced at a news conference today.

"We tried to negotiate that matter for a long time in the past, and we are not much optimistic at present. Hence, we are not sure if we would be able to come to an understanding and sign the Russian-Japanese peace treaty", Koichi Kato stressed. He also refuted information, published today in the evening issue of NIHON KEIZAI newspaper, KYODO TSUSHIN NEWS AGENCY reported. The newspaper claimed Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa informed the government he was going to push hard during Yeltsin's visit for signing the treaty and even to set the date for it.

Speaking of "the Northern Territories" in the parliament today, Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanaba emphasized four islands of the Kuril belong to Japan. He said he considered their transmission under the Japanese jurisdiction as the principle ground for signing the Russian-Japanese peace treaty.

Far East Business Congress Holds Conference

PM0602170192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Feb 92 First Edition p 1

[Report from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, TASS roundup: "Business Circles Move East"]

[Text] The first conference of the Far Eastern Congress of Russian Business Circles, which has taken on the task of forming the region's economic policy, opened Monday [3 February]. Representatives of the Far East's kray and oblast administrations and entrepreneurs from the United States and Hong Kong are participating in the conference. An examination of Primorskiy Kray's privatization programs, business development, the attraction of foreign investors, and the functioning of banks under the Russian reforms are on the agenda.

Bank Chairman Matyukhin Visits Helsinki

LD0702000792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1906 GMT 6 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Dodonov]

[Text] Helsinki, 6 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—The principal measures that have to be immediately put into effect to improve the country's economic situation are accelerated privatization, reform of the tax system, and limitation of credits to enterprises. This was stated today by Georgiy Matyukhin, chairman of the board of the Russian Central Bank, at a news conference held here today. Matyukhin is in Finland on a fact-finding visit at the invitation of the Bank of Finland.

In his opinion, the most complex and urgent economic problems facing our country are spiralling inflation, the state budget deficit, and instability of the currency system. At the same time, Matyukhin expressed his conviction that a turn for the better could be achieved as early as this year. For this to happen, he believes the government needs to dismantle the state monopoly and ensure sufficient tax revenues to cover the budget deficit. One of the most important measures by the Central Bank in this respect, he considers, is to restrict credits to enterprises, but only to an extent that will not cause excess growth of unemployment. There are already 1,200 commercial banks operating in Russia, and they can issue credits only within the limits of their existing resources.

Speaking about the creation of commercial banks in Russia, Georgiy Matyukhin stressed that their operations should be based entirely on internationally recognized banking principles. Full ruble convertibility cannot be a short-term goal, the chairman of the board of the Russian Central Bank said. He recalled that it took the Western countries nearly 15 years to achieve this following the Second World War. Gradual progress has to be made, and first and foremost, foreign capital has to be attracted into the country. For this to happen, there has to be a ruble exchange rate acceptable to foreign investors. Despite all the difficulties, Russia firmly intends to meet all interest payments due this year on foreign loans, Matyukhin stressed.

Ministry Clarifies Finnish Border Situation

LD0602150792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry has given explanations with regard to the allegations that were made in the '600 Seconds' program on 5 February that some political forces in Finland, with the support of certain circles in Russia, plan to reexamine the current Soviet-Finnish border. As to the question of the border between the two states, there are many opinions, including extreme points of view, the report of the Foreign Ministry says. According to the existing treaty, the sides are under the obligation to preserve the border in accordance with the Final Act of the Helsinki meeting by respecting its inviolability and each other's territorial integrity.

SFRY Gives Foreign Ministry 'Cold Reception'

LD0602044392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1355 GMT 5 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 5 Feb (TASS)—Yuriy Deryabin, special representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry in Belgrade on the instructions of President Boris Yeltsin of Russia, met on 4 February with representatives of the foreign political departments of Yugoslavia, Serbia and Montenegro.

During the meetings issues relating to the forthcoming recognition by Russia of Slovenia and Croatia were discussed in detail. It was stressed that in moving to recognize Slovenia and Croatia Russia was acting on the basis of the realities which were taking shape and a desire to facilitate a comprehensive (?political) solution to the Yugoslav crisis. At the same time it was indicated that there is no question from the Russian point of view of any loss or diminution of the legal entity of Yugoslavia in connection with the secession from it of two republics and international recognition of them. As before, Russia will be developing relations with the Yugoslav Federation and will continue and deepen its traditionally close cooperation with Serbia and Montenegro.

However, the smooth wording of the report on the meetings in Belgrade by the Russian side has little in common with the markedly cold reception given here to Russia's representative for perhaps the first time since the conflict between Stalin and Tito. Even less do they reflect the attitude of the broad mass of the citizens of Serbia. Literally everywhere people are expressing their bewilderment and distress at Moscow's haste in recognizing the breakaway republics and questions are being asked about why Russia, which is afflicted by its own virus of separatism, should rush to perpetuate the disintegration of Yugoslavia.

An official report from the SRFY foreign political department says that the Yugoslav side was highly critical of the intention of the Russian Federation to recognize Slovenia and Croatia and expressed regret at this unilateral act which effectively legalizes separatism and makes the search for a political solution to the Yugoslav crisis more difficult. [passage omitted]

In conversation with the TASS correspondent Yuriy Deryabin said that recognition of Slovenia and Croatia represented a desire not to stand back from events. In the past we often did delay, which brought no benefit to us at all, he said. In his opinion delaying recognition would narrow Russia's opportunities for promoting a settlement of the Yugoslav crisis and specifically for influencing Croatia in terms of observance of the rights of the Serbian population.

Asked if haste to recognize the breakaway republics was appropriate in the light of the processes of disintegration in Russia itself, Yu. Deryabin replied that "there is no direct link here". Moreover, he added, Russia is striving to maintain and multiply its broad ties with Serbia and the other republics remaining in Yugoslavia. Practical steps on our part would be very important at present to strengthen Russian-Serbian economic and cultural ties, but there was no possibility of that because of the difficult situation in our country.

In the next few days the special representative of Russia's Foreign Ministry will be visiting Croatia and Slovenia to discuss issues relating to recognition of them.

Latvian Envoy Presents Credentials to Yeltsin

LD0602163192 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0530 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] At the Latvian Foreign Ministry today there was a discussion by the deputy foreign ministers of the Baltic states, at which they spoke about cooperation between all three Baltic states' foreign ministries and coordination in making contacts with other states. But at the Kremlin in Moscow, Janis Peters, Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Latvia to the Russian Federation, presented his letters of accreditation to Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The Latvian envoy expressed hope of receiving the support of the president and his government in his mission.

In his speech in reply, Boris Yeltsin pointed out that Janis Peters is the first envoy to the Russian Federation from a former Union republic that is now an independent state. The president confirmed that he still supports and will go on supporting Latvia. Immediately after Janis Peters, the Estonian ambassador presented his letters of accreditation.

Moldova's Muravschi on Russian Oil Quota

92UN0724A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jan 92 p 3

[Interview with Valeriu Muravschi, prime minister of the Republic of Moldova, by NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent Igor Rotar on 23 January in Moscow: "We Have Come for an Oil Quota: We Will Refine the Oil in Belarus"]

[Text] **Valeriu Muravschi, prime minister of the Republic of Moldova, arrived in Moscow on 22 January for a working meeting with members of the government of Russia. Mr. Muravschi gave an exclusive interview to a NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent on 23 January, before flying to Kishinev.**

[Rotar] What are the main objectives of your visit?

[Muravschi] Last year an intergovernmental agreement was signed between the Republic of Moldova and Russia. We live in the same space; our republics are very strongly integrated. Therefore, despite individual shortcomings in the agreement, we should do everything possible to implement it.

[Rotar] You referred to shortcomings in the agreement. Would you please discuss them in greater detail?

[Muravschi] When the agreement was signed the Russian side insisted that all settlements be effected at world market prices. Our side was against this because neither we nor Russia have freely convertible currencies. While acknowledging the need to settle at world market prices, we believe that it would be more feasible to effect settlements in rubles under a clearing system. As I see it, a transition to world market prices should come in stages; if you toss someone into the water, it does not necessarily mean that he will learn to swim.

[Rotar] As far as I know, the main differences between Moldova and Russia developed in the course of settlements for oil. In your opinion, how should it be paid for?

[Muravschi] The government of Moldova believes that settlements for oil and other strategic resources should be effected at unrestricted prices. Despite the proclamation of an economic reform, attempts are now being made to establish quotas and restrictions, and to license some of the products. Certainly, such actions are associated with general economic instability and universal shortages. During our visit we focused on discussing the issue of settlements for fuel resources. Directors of large oil and gas enterprises from Tyumen Oblast, with which the corresponding structures of the Republic of Moldova have an agreement, also took part in the meeting. The Tyumen oilmen and Moldovan enterprises signed mutually advantageous contracts. In this case, we have a good example of what we strive for—mutually advantageous direct relations. At the same time, we happened to encounter instances whereby distributive structures, which have penetrated the new government, have attempted to dictate their own terms and withhold licenses. However, the position of the oilmen at the Moscow meeting was, interestingly, categorical. They said approximately the following to the representatives of Russia: "We understand that production is in a recession now, and that Russia has its own interests in restricting certain flows of goods. However, you should give us economic freedom because the oil industry is on the verge of collapsing."

[Rotar] Moldova receives a very restricted amount of fuel, despite the fact that it makes deliveries itself quite punctually.

[Muravschi] You see, this is a very complex issue. Previously, all output was distributed in a centralized manner. Oil was pumped to Ukraine, and we received about 80 percent of our refinery products from them. The situation changed last year. I understand that these are hard times for everyone but, unfortunately, our relationship with Ukraine on this issue did not work out. Actually, it so happened that the old relations were severed, but new relations failed to develop. When an

intergovernmental agreement was signed between Moldova and Russia last year, we made a special provision for the receipt of a certain volume of oil in return for our deliveries, and for processing it where it is advantageous for us. Unfortunately, by the beginning of this year Moldova was left without an oil quota. This is why the main objective of my visit was to obtain an oil quota, taking into account the decline of oil output. We would like to refine it in Belarus.

[Rotar] By all the signs, the discussion with the government of Russia was not an easy one. You left Yegor Gaydar's office as late as 0100.

[Muravschi] Indeed, our meeting began at 2330 and ended at 0100. Of course, many problems have piled up, and it is difficult to handle the stress we are subjected to even from the physical point of view. However, I think that it is going to get even more difficult in the future unless we give up the centralized system and old views.

[Rotar] Did you come to a mutual understanding with the government of Russia, after all?

[Muravschi] The main success of these negotiations lies in the fact that, it seems to me, the government of Russia related to the problems of oilmen and understood ways to solve them: direct agreements and contracts. The government of Russia will consider this issue within two to three days. Taking into account the position of the oilmen, I am convinced that an optimal solution will be found.

Federation Affairs

Further Reportage on Upcoming Demonstrations

Ralliers Hold News Conferences

OW0602202092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1916 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking today (February 6) at a press conference organized by the Russian Labor association, a member of one of the veterans' organizations forming part of it, Lieutenant-General Mikhail Titov (Retd.), said that his organization "had received information according to which people who defended the White House (the Russian parliament building in Moscow—IF [INTERFAX]) during the August putsch are planning disturbances. Hundreds of armed men will be demonstrating on February 9, and they'll be paid for this."

Russian Labor comprises various communist organizations headed by the Russian Communist Workers' Party [RCWP]. A month ago the party's leaders suggested holding a large-scale demonstration on February 9, which was named a "march to the White House."

Two days ago the Moscow authorities banned any demonstrations or processions to be held this weekend which might prevent traffic and suggested that a rally be held on Manezhnaya Square instead.

In this connection, members of Russian Labor who spoke at the press conference specially emphasized that the demonstrators would still assemble on Krymsky Val as planned before. Since Manezhnaya Square, where the rally itself will be held, is just a few kilometers away from Krymsky Val, there may still be a procession, although it may not move toward the toward the White House. The organizers stressed that they "will not ignore Red Square either."

According to RCWP Secretary Valeriy Podguzov, the organizers have told the authorities that about 50,000 people will be taking part in the rally but that they hope there will be twice as many. He also said Labor Russia supporters would hold similar demos and marches in St. Petersburg, Novosibirsk, Rostov, Tomsk, Syktyvkar, and other cities.

Labor Russia leaders said that, in addition to the police, the rally will be guarded by hundreds of volunteers from the Moscow Labor organization and also by "members of patrotic organizations, such as Young Russia, learning self-defense techniques."

Democratic Russia and organizations of people who defended the White House during the putsch held their own press conference today. K. Ignatyev from Democratic Russia qualified the claims to the effect that the democrats were being supplied with weapons and money as the "usual kind of communist demagoguery." There will be a democratic rally on Free Russia Square in front of the White House, also on February 9, in which, according to Mr. Ignatyev, at least 70,000 people will take part.

Democratic Russia members said at the press conference that the rally on Free Russia Square will be aimed at giving support to the Yeltsin government's policy of reform, and described Russian Labor's planned demo as a "large-scale provocation."

Answering our correspondent's question, Nikolay Testin, leader of the Zhivoye Koltso (Living Ring) organization comprising people who defended the White House last August, said his organization was planning to criticize the present-day Russian government too, but their aim was to "force the government to work, not to overthrow it."

Deputies Warn Against Clashes

OW0602203792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1916 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian People's Deputy Dmitriy Volkogonov has stressed the necessity to do everything possible to prevent clashes between participants in the two different rallies scheduled for February 8 and 9 in Moscow. Volkogonov, one of the leaders of "the Left Center"

parliamentary faction, spoke at its Thursday's meeting. He disapproved of holding mass actions both in support of economic reform and against it. Noting that "the process has become irreversible and the rallies in Moscow are inevitable, he nevertheless urged the faction to join the Democratic Russia in supporting the government. [quotation marks as received]

In the meantime, the faction "Communists of Russia" and some other factions close to it, are doing all they can to prevent clashes between supporters and opponents of economic reform, as one of the leaders of "Communists of Russia", people's deputy Ivan Ribkin told IF [INTERFAX]. He expressed satisfaction with the fact that their appeal to Russian President, Chairman of parliament and Mayor of Moscow to separate the rallies had been met with understanding.

'Labor Moscow' May Defy Ban

MK0702094292 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 6 Feb 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "They Do Not Know Where They Are Going"]

[Text] More about the rallies 9 February. We were told by Vyacheslav Gavrilov, member of the "August-91" Union of White House Defenders Coordinating Council, that the day before yesterday a televised debate was recorded at Ostankino involving Viktor Anpilov, acting in conjunction with his "Labor Moscow" [Trudovaya Moskva] colleagues and representatives of the "Living Ring" [Zhivoye Koltso] (on air 8 February). Anpilov said that, despite the fact that the "Labor Moscow" rally has only been authorized on Manezh Square, there will evidently be two columns, one of which will go to the White House.

In order to clarify this information we telephoned the "Labor Moscow" contact number and asked them to confirm what we had heard. We received the courteous response that the movement's members are scheduled to assemble at the park of culture, that they do not as yet know where they are going, but that they will be going together.

We are curious as to how law-enforcement organs will react to this statement.

Locations, Attendence Detailed

OW0702142192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1312 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] **SVOBODA RALLY IN SUPPORT OF REFORMS**

Svoboda (Freedom), a democratic movement, plans to stage a rally at Moscow's Manezh Square at 12:00 to 14:00, February 8. Several Moscow Council deputies will participate.

Theme: Support of radical economic reforms and attitude toward executive power.

Planned attendance: up to 35,000.

LIVING RING AND DEMOCRATIC RUSSIA

Democratic Russian and the groupings of citizens who defended the White House during the August putsch attempt will stage a rally on the Svobodnaya Russia Square in front of the Russian parliament at 11:00 to 15:00, February 9.

Theme: situation in Russia and the danger of reactionary takeover.

Planned attendance: 70,000.

WORKING RUSSIA

The demonstration organized by the Working Russia will assemble at the entrance to Gorky Park at 10:30, February 9.

The demonstration will proceed along Krymsky Val St., Zubovskaya Square, Kropotkinskaya St., Volkhonka etc.

Part of the demonstrators (members of Valeriy Skurlatov's Revival Party) are likely to defy the ban on a march on the White House.

The other part will head straight for Manezh Square, to hold the main rally there from 12:00 to 14:00. Some of those willing to participate will arrive at Manezh Square. Working Russia activists will be at the place from 10:30.

Planned attendance: 50,000.

Media's Coverage Criticized

PM0602152592 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 6 Feb 92 p 2

[A. Pavlov article: "On the Democracy Question: The 'Blood Cry' of the Ralliers?"]

[Text] Recently the television screens and the broadcasts of Radio Rossii have been swamped by a wave of reports and interviews aimed against those who planned to march and rally at the behest of Working Moscow 9 February. They are said to represent just about everybody and have been reviled in every way: as reactionaries, neofascists, and procommunist elements.

What have the participants in the rallies, marches, and processions done to cause such offense? They have **dared** to put forward slogans for the **social protection** of a population reduced to the poverty line and for struggle against the collapse of the economy and the government's antipeople policy.

Remember how indignantly the radio and television reported the rallies on 7 November last year and 22 January this year. Just look at the labels that they pinned on the rally participants! But if you think about it, why should ordinary people not be able to take to the streets

to state their demands and declare their calamitous plight? No, it is clear that the mass media today often lack objectivity. They are constantly manipulating, seeking to understate the number of people taking part in the rallies, to show compromising episodes from those rallies or processions (individual slogans, portraits, cries, and so on), and to distort their demands by the hackneyed method of saying that only party apparatchiks took to the squares.

When you hear these reports and read accounts in the "independent newspapers," you start to wonder: Who is making the authors of these reports distort the truth? What is this—a social directive, feelings of loyalty, or a fear of popular discontent at the policy of the present government, which has plunged the people into the abyss of poverty and deprivation? But mass actions in democratic states are a familiar phenomenon. What has happened to our democracy? Can it be, as some observers are noting, that there is no hint of democracy in our country? But the present leaders came to power under its banners. A year ago they freely organized rallies and no one got in their way. Then they fiercely attacked those who tried to "gag democracy." But now, when the masses try to take to the squares, the cry immediately goes up: How dare they?

No matter how much the official mass media try to present the ralliers as an evil force, this will not improve the masses' lot, nor will it increase the goods and foodstuffs in the stores. To remove the need for rallies and processions it is necessary to create tolerable living conditions for people. But to scream that this is the "'Blood Cry' of the Ralliers" is an antipeople method.

Shatalin Warns of Communist, Fascist Danger

PM0702113492 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with Stanislav Shatalin by Otto Latsis; date, place not stated: "Stanislav Shatalin: The People Are Smarter Than Politicians Think"]

[Text] Shatalin is in hospital at the moment. He has pneumonia and finds it hard to talk. But he himself called IZVESTIYA and asked us to give him an opportunity to put his views in the newspaper urgently. The academician and well-known economist is today more concerned about the political situation than anything. We give below the transcript of the conversation.

[Latsis] Stanislav Sergeyevich, society's present agitated state is largely due to economic difficulties. So is it possible that any improvement in the situation depends wholly on the economic stabilization?

[Shatalin] No, it is impossible to save the situation through purely economic measures. Although economic prospects must be assessed. In the latest edition of the television program "Itogi," Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov, speaking as an expert, said: You see how bad things are, that is what the authors of the "500 Days" program wanted too, and we warned them not to do it. Well, that is a timely reminder, but I see it differently. It is very easy to criticize the government's actions now. For instance, our "500 Days" program envisaged that price liberalization would be preceded by financial stabilization, privatization, land reform, and commodity intervention, but none of this has been done yet and everything is happening against the rules. But who is to blame, if not Nikolay Ivanovich above all? The situation was difficult 18 months ago, but compared to the present situation it was idyllic. The Ryzhkov and Pavlov governments are to blame for the unforgivable delay, because they would not waive the interests of the military-industrial complex.

There were also delays later, even after the August putsch—Russia did not immediately start preparing for its reform. The Russian Supreme Soviet and president are to blame for delaying the decision on private ownership of land. Given the starting conditions inherited by the present government of Russia, the logic of its actions could not have been any different from the way it is. Although weaknesses are apparent in its program and must be pointed out. Social protection is weak. It was naive to expect the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] states to refrain from economic separatism—coupons, customs restrictions, bans, and so forth. True, it was not up to Russia to start that policy, but it should have been ready for it. There have also been tactical miscalculations. The desire for a zero budget deficit is logical, but must not become an obsession. Tax pressures and export duties are excessive. And if the government has been making concessions in recent days, this is not an abandonment of its strategy, it is realism, a sensible reaction to criticism. But more substantial concessions should not be made, because restoring the budget to health is the cornerstone of reform.

All political movements should call on the government not to slacken the pace. At the moment, in particular, not to delay with privatization, although the principles of privatization should be structural. I am opposed in principle to people's enterprises on the Yugoslav model—that is the way to a communal grave, the way to the very speedy erosion of reserves. I am also opposed to handing out property free, although some degree of material support for the working people is necessary.

[Latsis] Do the results of the first month of price liberalization bear out what you expected?

[Shatalin] In terms of economic development, not much can be determined in such a short space of time, but at all events there have been no surprises. The real changes lie ahead, and they must be changes for the better. The enterprises, having set prices at the level of their own inflationary expectations, are already experiencing consumer resistance—people will not take the goods at those prices. When they come up against a shortage of circulating capital, they will need to sell something in a hurry, and to do that they will have to offer a realistic price. This will mean that the market motor has started up.

But in the sociopolitical sphere, there was a surprise. I expected January to be the crunch month for the government. Before the reform, Burbulis and Gaydar and I talked about how to plan the political situation literally day by day. Strike readiness is there, the reason to strike is there—after all, the miners are even getting their wages late. But the miners are still working, and the metalworkers, despite extremely difficult conditions. Either the people changed up a gear, or else they realized that this is not just a bunch of rogues trying to dig the economy out of this hole. Obviously what is needed is to be less hysterical, to frighten ourselves less. When people keep on shouting "fire, we are on fire!," then things catch fire even without matches.

[Latsis] Could there be another factor at work too? People have seen that at last there is a government that has started to move forward and to change the momentum of the ceaseless process of sinking into the mire. There are difficulties, there are mistakes, but something is being done—that is a thousand times better than the days when all the right things were said, but no progress was made.

[Shatalin] That is true. But the problem of a social explosion remains, and it is a crime to underestimate it. Although I believe the government understands that. It should provide more reliable protection for socially vulnerable strata. It is probably a mistake to rely too much on the population's political patience. Even if the rise in prices slows down (and it should slow down), social weariness will accumulate with time. All the same, what I am most afraid of is not a social explosion, not a blind rebellion. I think careful, comprehensive, well-planned preparations for counterrevolution are under way in the country, preparations for an organized action against democracy.

Two main forces are preparing to strike. On the one hand, there are the communist fundamentalists, the worst part of the former CPSU. In a new guise, or not even in a new guise, if you take the RCWP [Russian Communist Workers Party] and the caricature "cabinet" headed by Sergeyev and Makashov that the revanchists propose. The second force is Russian fascism, the danger of which I spoke of as long ago as the February 1990 plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. This force is not of a communist persuasion, it has its own slogans, objectives, and plans. But events have their own logic. Both forces want to wreck the emerging democracy, and they are converging. The counterrevolution is recruiting not the people, but the lumpen, the marginalized, the declasse elements from all strata of society. But this is what is dangerous: These people, very many of them, have assumed the guise of democrats. They are sitting there in Staraya Ploshchad, in the White House, in the Kremlin. I do not want to enlarge on this, it is an important topic and we will return to it another time. But information is filtering through increasingly frequently about so-called democrats (in this case, it is appropriate to use this expression of Mikhail Sergeyevich's, which used to irritate us).

You may ask: Why should the democrats, or even people in the guise of democrats, need this—when they have already become established in their new posts? For the same reason that the putschists needed their conspiracy. Why did Kryuchkov, Yanayev, or Yazov need a conspiracy? Or Pavlov—did he want to become premier twice over? They were afraid that democracy, once it became firmly established, would no longer have room for people like them. And now today's pseudo-democrats realize that if the reforms go ahead, there will be no place for them in the apparatus of power. They are fine politicians and are trying to prepare a soft landing for themselves ahead of time.

[Latsis] But certain democratic mechanisms exist—maybe not fully developed as yet, but the foundations of a democratic political system are there.

[Shatalin] Yes, they are. First—a president elected by the whole people. A parliament elected by the whole people, whatever it may actually be like. A constitutional court which has already demonstrated its effectiveness with its first major decision. There are social organizations and parties, Democratic Russia, the Movement for Democratic Reforms [DRM]—of which I am cochairman. If all this did not exist, I would not be talking to you now, I would be looking for somewhere to run to. But this whole system is still passive in the face of danger. While I approve of many of Boris Nikolayevich's steps with regard to the West, I must say frankly that he is not fulfilling his functions as guarantor of the Constitution and human rights.

[Latsis] Isn't that putting it rather bluntly?

[Shatalin] Let me give you an illustration. On every street corner you can buy newspapers that are deadlier than snake venom, if you read them. Chauvinism, racism, calls for violence and the overthrow of the lawfully elected authorities. We are like children, repeating words about freedom of the press, freedom of speech, without thinking about what these expressions mean. But nowhere else in the world is there such freedom to preach violence, lawlessness, and enmity toward peoples. Propaganda for which you could go to prison in the most democratic countries is conducted here with impunity. And we should not be afraid of being accused of going back to the past.

The second thing that worries me is the marked weakness and passivity of democratic organizations. Take our DRM—I, among others, was in at the beginning of this movement and as a politician I am responsible for it. At the moment all it is doing is discrediting itself. We are only observing events, making certain assessments, but doing nothing to bar the way to counterrevolution, although we criticize the authorities at the same time. We are repeating the mistakes of pre-October [1917] democracy. We know what their political intrigues led to, what the historical split in the workers' movement cost, where both bolshevism and fascism came from. Yet we are acting in the same way. If all the democrats fail to

grasp the danger, if political thuggery, democratic arrogance, envy, and the struggle for leadership continue unabated, then the consequences could be grave. Literally in the next two or three months, the DRM, Democratic Russia, the DPR [Democratic Party of Russia], and all the other real democratic forces must find a way to unite their actions to rebuff the danger.

[Latsis] Two or three months? What about the events of the next few days? The congress of those who call themselves patriotic forces, the demonstration, the counterdemonstration?

[Shatalin] My main objection is to the counterdemonstration, and in particular the fact that it is scheduled for the same day. The democrats are strong enough to have no need to march, brandishing banners, to assert their strength. To influence the "patriots" to refrain from marching is beyond our powers, and anyway it is unnecessary. It is the law enforcement organs' job to cut short any unlawful demands or actions if they occur, if fascism, chauvinism, and incitement to violence are openly manifested. All such actions are subject to criminal punishment. For the rest, I am in favor of glasnost, let everyone see who's who. If I was in the democrats' place, I would not disgrace myself, and most importantly I would not create the conditions that could lead to provocations.

[Latsis] Do you not think that, apart from ordinary hysteria, actions by highly calculating politicians are also in evidence here?

[Shatalin] Undoubtedly. And that is why we must not put ourselves within reach of their blows.

Afanasyev Interviewed on Yeltsin, Reforms

PM0602152292 Copenhagen DET FRI AKTUELT in Danish 4 Feb 92 p 20

[Report on undated Moscow interview with Democratic Russia cochairman Yuriy Afanasyev by Per Dalgard]

[Text] Moscow—"They call themselves pragmatists, but I call them 'armchair politicians' who only think about pleasing Yeltsin and Mayor Popov," Yuriy Afanasyev said of his fellow chairmen of the Democratic Russia movement.

Last year he was appointed the first chancellor of the newly formed Russian Humanist University whose main task is to lay the foundations for post-Soviet research and education.

Since the start of perestroyka the radical reformer has left his unmistakeable stamp on developments within the democratic opposition in the Soviet Union. Together with publicist Leonid Batkin, who has been one of Gorbachev's toughest critics, and the popular reformer from St. Petersburg, Bella Denisenko, Afanasyev has just announced that the group is leaving the movement in protest. It has also been reported that Boris Yeltsin's adviser on nationalities questions, Galina Starovoytova, is also leaving Democratic Russia, which has for several years been the dominant pressure group for reforms and democracy.

"It is simply unacceptable," Afanasyev said in an interview with DET FRI AKTUELT in his chancellor's office, "that a prominent member of the movement, Stankevich, who is an adviser to the president, should enter the management of one of the country's biggest banks. Conflicts of interest are unavoidable. Many members of the movement have gone into business, and you cannot be independent at the same time. It is a question of morals and integrity. Even though it sounds a little high-flown, we have to be closer to Sakharov's morality, and preserve our spiritual freedom, our ideals."

Asked whether it is possible to be an idealist in a time when what is needed is decisive action if the country is to be saved, Afanasyev said: "It is both possible and necessary. It is our duty to tell people honestly why they are suffering. And we have to shout loudly every time Yeltsin makes a mistake. And he does so almost every day."

The candid chancellor—a former history professor—believes that Democratic Russia, which originally united a number of different groups with a desire to combat the Communist Party and introduce democracy and a market economy, will disintegrate. According to Afanasyev, this is due first and foremost to the fact that the movement did not succeed in creating a popular base.

This popular base will only come into being with the growth of the new middle class. "It is in the new middle class that a popular democratic movement will arise. But this middle class is only growing slowly. Today there is a broad and shapeless mass of people living in destitution and misery among whom different forces—such as the fascistic Zhirinovskiy and the Stalinist old-style communists—are working and trying to gain influence. But amongst this mass there are also many people with initiative who are thirsting for productivity, activity, and a democratic voice. It is these people we must encourage. They must have the right conditions. And that is what they must be given by the reforms."

[Dalgard] But was it not a mistake to free prices without first privatizing, so that there was a real base for competition and market mechanisms?

[Afanasyev] In theory it is easy to attack the reforms like that. But the truth of the matter is that Yeltsin and the government had no other alternative. If we had begun the reforms several years ago, things could have been tackled differently. Not now. The economy after the communist regime was so bad and general decay so widespread that it is perhaps impossible to put things to rights.

I am very critical of Yeltsin, but to do him justice he knows how to gather people around him. The government of which Deputy Prime Minister Gaydar is the real

leader consists of young, capable, and professional people who are working hard under inhuman pressure. It is doing everything that is humanly possible, sometimes even what is impossible, to save society from total collapse. The conditions facing the government are so frightful that even its superhuman efforts and correct measures could still lead not only to the personal defeat of the government, but also to a final defeat for all efforts to reform our society. [Afanasyev ends]

In the old centralist Soviet Union everything was based on the motto: "United and Indivisible." This applied to the republics' association in a union and the unity of the army. One of Yuriy Afanasyev's most important points of criticism against Boris Yeltsin is this very motto which he thinks the president is about to take over.

"If Yeltsin does not abandon the idea of unity, the Russian Federation will fall apart completely. In my view Russia should be united, but not indivisible. The national territories—such as Tatarstan, Yakutia, the Ural region, the northern Caucasus, and so on—must have independence, autonomy, their own laws, parliaments, taxes—call them what you will. If not—the country will explode in bloodshed. Yeltsin and the government are creating fear everywhere with their attempts to halt this process and make Russia the center for the former republics, Russia's own national territories, and especially the army and the navy."

[Dalgard] Is this not again a question of ideals and the politics of the possible? After all, Yeltsin is under great pressure. For example, we saw how toughly the 5,000 assembled officers voiced their views a few weeks ago.

"There is no reason to be afraid of that gathering of officers. The meeting came to nothing. It is easy to understand the officers psychologically. They have sacrificed their whole lives to the huge and powerful united army, and then it collapses in front of their eyes. But the army is a copy of the totalitarian regime—its backbone. Now the regime has fallen, and so the army as a structure is being broken up. Anything else would be absurd. Also, the republics have just as much right to the army and the navy. They have also paid their share of the lunatic sums spent on maintaining them. The reality of the situation is that none of the republics wants or can afford to sacrifice these huge sums on the defense forces any longer. It would be enough if each republic were to have a national guard and troops which could form part of joint defense forces for the Commonwealth of Independent States," Afanasyev said at the Humanist University, in the building which formerly housed the CPSU's Higher Party School.

'Free Russia' Leader Views Rutskoy Role

MK0702091592 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 7 Feb 92 p 2

["Interview on Topical Subject" with V. Zharikhin, member of Board of People's Party-Free Russia, by A. Osinskiy; place and date not given: "Everyone Makes His Own Choice"—first three paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] The figure of Russian Vice President A. Rutskoy has long attracted heightened attention. The public have frequently seen that he is not merely the second man in the top executive, but also a person with a view of his own on many highly important socioeconomic and political issues.

Press reports on the coming congress of Russia's civil and patriotic forces and the fact that A. Rutskoy—despite the decision of the board of the party he heads not to take part in the congress—will himself be attending this congress, almost as the central figure, have added fuel to the fire. A number of commentaries indicate that the vice president's two long articles published recently in PRAVDA and IZVESTIYA seemed quite disgraceful to many representatives of the democratic public.

What does all this mean: Does it really mean confrontation with the president and the government and now with his party, or something else? Our conversation with V. Zharikhin, member of the Board of the People's Party-Free Russia, started with these questions.

[Zharikhin] I would like to say right away that there are no serious grounds for all the talk of a conflict between our party and its leaders. The logic behind such conclusions is understandable. As you know, in conjunction with other political parties and movements in November we signed an agreement to support on the whole Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin's course of radical and decisive reforms. Many people believe that any criticism from the party leveled at the president and the government he heads is no more than confrontation, apostasy, or something even worse.

However, before making such accusations we should remember that, in making these pledges, we had in mind and stipulated a quite definite sequence of actions to be taken by the government in implementing the reforms. Let us turn to one of the documents adopted by our party's council concerning socioeconomic policy in the Russian Federation. Certainly, it says outright: "The Council of the People's Party-Free Russia supports the president's and government's readiness to embark on radical reforms and urges Free Russia's members and supporters to do their utmost to promote the implementation of these reforms." But it says there clearly and unequivocally that we deem it necessary to strive to make public the order of priority and sequence of the steps taken, ensure a program for economic demonopolization under democratic control, synchronize price liberalization and privatization, most speedily formulate and introduce a differentiated system of measures to provide various population groups with social security, lift restrictions on legitimate entrepreneurial activity, introduce a tax mechanism, provide credit incentives for business activity, etc.

Are these terms being observed? Should the government be criticized for this today by many newspapers whose democratic thrust is not in doubt? For some reason constructive criticism is viewed as an attempt to upset the reforms. The heart of the matter often cannot be seen behind certain unfortunate phrases such as "boys in rose-colored pants" [malchiki v rozovykh stanishkakh]. It is particularly bad if this is deliberate. Incidentally, this reluctance to see the core issue gave me an unpleasant shock when reading IZVESTIYA's commentary "From the Editorial Office" on Rutskoy's article "Communion at McDonald's." In my view, the man here is talking sincerely about something that worries and pains him. Yet that is doggedly ignored. He is, on the contrary, rebuked and dubious political activity is hinted at. His statements in Western Siberia and the recent PRAVDA article are mentioned, and there are even recriminations regarding his forthcoming appearance at the congress of state and patriotic forces... This is all the more painful in that I have great respect for IZVESTIYA on the whole.

[Osinskiy] You will agree that constructive criticism and even opposition from a party is one thing, but it is quite another if the vice president does the same kind of thing, even if he is the leader of that party. He must play on the team which has, to so speak, taken the field rather than criticize.

[Zharikhin] That may be the case with a sport. But, as I understand it, every game, particularly a bad game, is subjected to critical analysis. We are dealing with a far more complex phenomenon. Mistakes and bad decisions in effecting the socioeconomic reorganization of society are inevitable now. And there have been mistakes and bad decisions. Agreeing with them or passing over them in silence, guided by the principle of being on "the same team" is not the best way to achieve success.

[Osinskiy] Granted. Nevertheless let us get back to the coming congress of patriotic forces that you mentioned. To be frank, I cannot believe that intraparty relations will not at least be complicated by the lack of coincidence in the positions espoused by the party's board and its leader.

[Zharikhin] Many people are now trying to fuel the real or potential clashes between the party and Rutskoy or, on the other hand, between Rutskoy and the party. Some people would very much like this to happen. Hence the interest or, more accurately, the fueling of interest. In my view, this is not the only thing or the main issue. I think that this reaction is above all attributable to the tenacity of the stereotypes of the old thinking. It is striking that people who fought the monster of the CPSU, where only one opinion—the leader's—was possible and mandatory for everyone, are hewing to roughly the same idea today, or else going to the other extreme of thinking that everyone should unconditionally obey the majority opinion. No, we are in actual fact—and not just verbally—defending the right of both the minority and every individual member of the party to their own opinion and position.

Certainly, as a political organization we will not be taking part in the congress. At the same time we do not think that anything terrible will happen if Rutskoy does go along to the congress and speaks there as a private individual or even as vice president. Yeltsin finally attended the all-Army conference even though he probably did not agree or feel solidarity with everything that was said and suggested there.

Yet the fact that some representatives of the congress organizational committee are venturing to voice some opinions on Rutskoy's behalf is strange in the least.

[Osinskiy] Other functions will also be held in the city while the congress of patriotic forces is under way. As you know, a march on the White house has been planned. The democrats in turn have decided to organize a counterdemonstration. At a recent press conference members of the above congress' organizational committee said that they disassociated themselves from these blind patriots and neocommunists. What position does your party hold on this?

[Zharikhin] I cannot speak for the whole party, but I do know that many of us do not approve of the march on the White House or the rush to defend it. I am sure that the rallies and demonstrations will bring no good. I do not even share the sentiments of the democratic forces that have decided to assume the duties of its defenders. We should not supplant the city authorities, which are empowered to decide whether a particular rally can or cannot be held and are obliged to safeguard law and order. Otherwise disaster, the most terrible disaster, of civil confrontation will not be far behind.

Republic Party Leader Supports Yeltsin

MK0602142092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Feb 92 p 2

[Interview with Vyacheslav Shostakovskiy, cochairman of Republic Party of Russia, by Vladimir Todres; place and date not given: "Government Must Not Flirt With 'Image of Time-Server.' Vyacheslav Shostakovskiy, Cochairman of Republic Party of Russia Intends To Support It"]

[Text] [Todres] The Republic Party of Russia [RPR] was one of the first to sign an agreement with Yeltsin backing the reforms. Since then virtually all the signatories have to varying degrees refused to have anything to do with it, declaring—once again to varying degrees—their opposition to the incumbent government's course. You have not yet revealed what you think of what is happening...

[Shostakovskiy] Certainly, we have not held any rallies like Travkin's. However, we have said that we back the government's strategic course. Although we disagree

with it on some points. For instance, we consider the value-added tax too high. In any case it is inadmissible to start talking about the cabinet resigning three months after it has started work. Incidentally, the government itself must particularly not flirt with the image of time-servers... We think that as far as possible it is necessary to try to amend its actions somehow. This is hard because the agreement that you mentioned is being implemented badly. In particular, there has been a break in contacts with the government, which according to the agreement should take place regularly.

[Todres] The government has certainly promised to provide drafts of its most important decisions for preliminary examination...

[Shostakovskiy] Documents are being handed to the group of experts that we formed. It formulates some kind of response. But I do not know what happens then. We are not conscious of any feedback.

[Todres] Do the experts' suggestions stay with these documents?

[Shostakovskiy] No, they disappear somewhere, but I have no idea of how they are viewed. I am very concerned by the fact that the government is not thinking about forming its own social base of support at all. Why, for instance are reform ideologists not issuing systematic statements on television? People must be told what is going on. At least something...

[Todres] Many of your colleagues in the above agreement are now criticizing the government's proposed reform plan. Talking about strategic support, do you really support the fact that price liberalization was undertaken before privatization and the commercialization of trade, with trading organizations [torgi] and main directorates not abolished?

[Shostakovskiy] Certainly, the textbook sequence of these actions has been overturned—but textbook conditions do not after all exist! For all the apparent lack of logic in the steps taken by the government you must remember that it is still acting in set conditions. Conditions set not by the government's actions but by the work of other people entirely. They inherited the present chaos. The classic, textbook reform could probably have been effected two or three years ago—on the basis of Yavlinskiy's program, for instance...

[Todres] ...Even if it presupposed a unified Union?

[Shostakovskiy] It did.. At that time both political scientists and economists realized that this was a mistake. They realized that this kind of union would not exist under any circumstances. Although synchronizing actions would have had some advantages. Yet it is unrealistic to speak of a rigid sequence of steps in late 1991 and early 1992. Incidentally, liberalizing prices—even this way, which is not the best—has produced some results. First, the picture in the stores has in fact changed—in comparison with the cosmic emptiness of last November. People have developed a kind of new sense: "I am very hungry, I cannot afford anything—I must find extra earnings. I must get going [krutitsya], I must show initiative." Not everyone thinks like that, but, according to poll data, roughly 60 percent do. Admittedly, if the stores became empty again—as they did following last April's price hikes—that would mean collapse. Citizens and specialists would lose all faith. And that would take a real toll on political stability. That is our party's stance.

[Todres] But do you think that these 60 percent form the government's social base?

[Shostakovskiy] At first. But I would start with more or less organized structures, primarily with political parties. Of course they are not very influential and are small... Although I do not particularly trust the idea that the "size of the party and the leader's popularity" govern political clout." Take a close look: What are the real opportunities for parties to exert influence in Russia's regions?

[Todres] What are they then? What about the RPR, for instance?

[Shostakovskiy] In 12 regions either the administration heads, or the soviet chairmen, or the president's representatives are members of our party. Our regional organizations (now fitted into "Democratic Russia") may have an appreciable influence on the scientific-technical and engineering intelligentsia. While "Democratic Russia," the Democratic Party of Russia has the same, if not greater, opportunities... If the government tried to gather all this potential together I think that it would feel more confident.

[Todres] Your cochairman, Stepan Sulakshin, is the president's representative in Tomsk. Yet the soviet there is suspending Russian decisions on privatization and prices...

[Shostakovskiy] Governability has, needless to say, been lost. Among other reasons because the government gets no feedback. You cannot confine yourself to official information or press information. You have to have several channels, including a party channel. Information often comes down it that would not reach a maharajah... In 20-30 Russian oblasts we have good bodies of experts, analysts, and sociologists who could systematically track what is going on. If only this work were called for... The situation in Tomsk is very complex. And Sulakshin is up against powerful, long-term opposition.

[Todres] The position that many parties have espoused on the reform could have been guessed at. Because they had already found their niche in the political spectrum. The RPR was set up as a party of people with similar careers ("Democratic Platform " veterans) rather than a party of common convictions. Has the party's self-determination succeeded?

[Shostakovskiy] We have undergone a fairly marked evolution. At first social democratic sentiments prevailed within the "Democratic Platform." You remember how there were constant debates about joining the Social Democratic Workers Party. But something else also happened: After the "Democratic Platform" left the CPSU many people did not feel very at ease at work. Many were dismissed, including your humble servant. One had to seek a new role for oneself. So within a few months there were a fairly large number of small and middling entrepreneurs within the party. I think that was why the RPR also began to direct its attention to liberal values. This trend is taking root and growing stronger. I think that our party is something like the Free Democrats in Germany. However, our time may not yet have come in our national, declasse society. Although new social groups are crystallizing. If it proves successful, the market will give rise to a new socioeconomic milieu that will require new political subjects.

[Todres] Do you not think that the existence of even the present parties is in itself speeding up the stratification of society?

[Shostakovskiy] That is true. That is why blocs and alliances of related parties and movements are needed today.

[Todres] The Liberal Alliance's [liberalnyy soyuz] constituent congress is scheduled for March. Will the RPR take part in it?

[Shostakovskiy] Undoubtedly. Regrettably, although for understandable reasons, this alliance has appreciably dropped the organizational pace—to virtually nothing.

[Todres] Naturally. Everyone is engaged in serious business: Piyashcheva is engaged in privatization, Murashev is tackling the militia, and Kasparov is defending his crown. All the organizational burdens have been shouldered by the Christian Democrats [kadety], the "free democrats," and the party of free labor...

[Shostakovskiy] We sent Sulakshin to the organizational committee, but the Tomsk mission "drummed" him out. To be honest, our party does not always have enough men of strength. One of the cochairmen—Vladimir Lysenko—is very busy in parliament, "Democratic Russia," and the Democratic Congress. I was elected cochairman of the Movement for Democratic Reforms. Our party is sometimes criticized for striving to be everywhere... Yet that is understandable—we want to create a party of liberal orientation, striving to seek formulas of accord for society.

Emerging Communist Political Groups Identified

PM0602172492 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 3, 19-26 Jan 92 p 14

[Unattributed "MN [Moscow News] File" feature: "Neo-Communist Organizations in Russia"]

[Text] Democratic MPs [members of parliament] and independent experts believe that communist and neo-communist groupings emerging amid the debris of CPSU structures can be subdivided into the following four categories: the moderate reformers' elite, radical reformers, revivalists and neo-bolsheviks.

The moderate reformers' elite

This highly influential group consists of former top CPSU leaders and functionaries believing in the necessity of external modernization of the party and adjusting its tactics to the changing world and national scene. There was a time when this group was meant to be singled out as an influential nucleus inside the CPSU, but it so happened that the key ideologists of moderate reformism, namely Arkadiy Volskiy, Aleksandr Yakovlev and Eduard Shevardnadze, were ousted from the CPSU leadership.

The Democratic Reform Movement set up as the result has not so far gained a broad following among ex-CPSU members and has remained a closed elitist circle. Rumour has it that following the August coup Mikhail Gorbachev joined it privately, after renouncing his General Secretaryship of the routed CPSU.

Radical reformers

This group comprises former communists who have realized the inevitability of reforming the economy on market principles, whilst still believing that the "socialist principles" of social policy, distribution, law and order, management and control over the state sector can coexist with a free market.

The People's Party of Free Russia [PPFR] (the former Democratic Party of Russian Communists) is the most characteristic representative of the given movement. The party was set up at the initiative of the Communists for Democracy faction within the Russian parliament, under the leadership of the present Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy. 800 delegates who attended the party's constituent conference on August 2-3, 1991 represented the interests of 7,230 CPSU members. Since then new members have been recruited mostly from communists who left the CPSU after the putsch.

By the time the People's Party of Free Russia held its first congress on October 26-27 it had a membership of about 100,000 and more than 60 regional branches, according to the party's leaders. It was at the congress that the party received its present denomination. It is financed from the Civil Conciliation Foundation set up by Aleksandr Rutskoy. The party believes in achieving a welfare state through "social market economy" with a strong and civilized entrepreneurial sector. The way to spiritual welfare lies in overall support for the intelligentsia, as the main force of Russia's revival. And the way to political freedom lies in asserting individual human rights.

The People's Party of Free Russia intends to support Russia's President in his policies of radical social and economic reform. The party's leaders are Russia's Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy and the former deputy director of the analytical centre within the Institute of socio-political studies, V. Lipitskiy. The party's first congress declared the PPFR to be "the only heir" to CPSU property on the territory of Russia. Some former CPSU Central Committee functionaries believe Alexandr Rutskoy's party to be the most effective tool for the organizational and ideological reunification of centrist communists in Russia.

Revivalists

This group is represented by CPSU functionaries wishing to restore the party under a different name and at least in Russia, to begin with. "Revivalists" admit only cosmetic changes in the political doctrine and structure of the former CPSU, and pay lip service to "multiform" economic relations.

To this category one can refer, first of all, the Workers' Socialist Party set up at the initiative of USSR People's deputies A. Denisov and R. Medvedev, members of the Russian Communists faction within the Russian parliament V. Sevostyanov, A. Solovev, I. Solodyakova and I. Rybkin, and first secretaries of the Nizhniy Novgorod and Obninsk city CPSU committees. On October 2, 1991 they published an appeal to unite Russia's left-wing forces of socialist orientation in Sovetskaya Rossiya. The organizing committee in charge of setting up the party includes also L. Valtazarova, a secretary of the Moscow city CPSU committee.

Their concept consists in uniting Communists around the ideas reflected in the draft programme of the CPSU entitled "Socialism, Democracy, progress". The party intends to defend individual and collective property without rejecting small private businesses in the sphere of public service. The new party has also declared itself to be the CPSU's successor, specifically property-wise.

The establishment of the Communists' Union was declared officially on 26 November, 1991 by some of the supporters of the once active Marxist platform within the CPSU, led by A. Prigarin, a member of its coordinating council and member of the CPSU Central Committee. The founders of the Communists' Union stand for socialist development of society and the predominant role of public ownership of the basic means of production. Prigarin believes it essential to restore Soviet power, to develop the system of democracy based on territorial and industrial principle and promote self-Government. According to various sources, the Communists' Union has the support of the former CPSU leadership, such as First Secretary of the Russian CP Central Committee V. Kuptsov, and Secretary of the CPSU CC K. Stroyev. Yegor Ligachev has expressed a desire to be a rank-and-file member of the Union.

Neo-Bolsheviks

These are orthodox Marxists, the champions of the CPSU revival on the political and organizational principles laid down by Lenin and Stalin. The position of neo-Bolsheviks tends towards extremism and is far removed from the real sentiments of the overwhelming majority of the population and the alignment of political forces. However, one cannot exclude the possibility of their position attracting the least enlightened social strata in case of emergency. The main ideas of the neo-Bolshevik groups are discreditation of democratic parties and their leaders, of entrepreneurial (non-party) structures, the justification of CPSU history and practices, active criticism of Boris Yeltsin's government and its mistakes and opposition to reforms introduced by sympathetic MPs and local authorities, blaming the democratic forces for the difficult situation in which the country finds itself.

The All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks was set up at the initiative of orthodox communists belonging to the all-Union society calling itself "Unity for Leninism and Communists Ideals" and led by the notorious Bolshevik supporter Nina Andreyeva. According to various sources, the party's constituent congress held on November 8, 1991 in St. Petersburg was attended by 164 to 234 delegates representing 18 regions in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, the Baltic states, Kazakhstan and Central Asia. By the time of the congress "Unity for Leninism" embraced 35,000 activists and, according to Nina Andreyeva, had local committees in 80 areas and regions, as well as nine sovereign states. The Party of Bolsheviks has so far said nothing about its claim on CPSU property, but this is regarded only as a matter of time.

According to its rules, the All-Union Communists party of Bolsheviks expresses and defends the interests of the working class, working peasants and the intelligentsia committed to the idea of building socialism and communism, preserving and strengthening the USSR's integrity as a state. The Party of Bolsheviks has declared itself in opposition to the present regime. In this connection they pose the question of developing "non-parliamentary forms of struggle" and being ready to "use the means forced on them by counter-revolution".

The Russian Communists Workers' Party was revived at the suggestion of the "initiative congress of Russia Communists" led by V. Tyulkin and members of the CPSU apparatus in Siberia and the Far east. The "revival" took place at a congress held in Yekaterinburg on November 23-24, 1991. The party's ideology prescribes a return to the pre-1985 stage. Among the party's more prominent members are General A. Makashov and Professor A. Sergeyev.

The New Party of Russia's Communists has on its organizing committee A. Kryuchkov, a leader of the Marxist platform and a former member of the CPSU CC, member of the CC Secretariat A. Maltsev, USSR

People's deputy L. Sukhov, Secretary of the Podolsk city CPSU committee Yu. Shipulin, and Editor-in-Chief of Narodnaya Gazeta S. Skvortsov. The organizing committee's ideological touchstones do not go beyond the traditional principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist ideals. The new party is being set up as an opposition force to the existing regime.

Pamyat Leader Voices Support for Rutskoy

LD0402000792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 2135 GMT 1 Feb 92

["Pamyat Leader Supports Russian Vice-President" — headline]

[Text] Moscow—Dmitriy Vasiliev, leader of National Patriotic Front Pamyat (Memory), sees a number of Aleksandr Rutskoy's phrases in press as an act of civil courage. Pamyat commented on the ideas offered by Russian Federation Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy in his publications in newspapers PRAVDA (January 30) and IZVESTIYA (January 31) and told PF [POSTFACTUM] Rutskoy hit the target. He will win the hearts of many people. If we see elements of vanity or ambition in what he says, it is a pity. But if he does not reject his words and stays true to them, we shall help him. Here's where our interests join: the great Russia. ... A true Russian Officer. I'd nominate him head commander.

Official on Defense Conversion, Arms Sales

LD0702024692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1640 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Report by correspondent Viktor Levin on news conference by Mikhail Bazhanov, chairman of the Russian State Committee for Conversion Issues under the Russian president, in Moscow on 6 February—Bazhanov remarks recorded]

[Text] [Levin] Ways in which we can, or rather must, help ourselves was the subject of a news conference given today by Mikail Nikolyevich Bazhanov, chairman of the State Committee for Conversion Issues attached to the Russian president.

The problem of conversion is an extremely acute one in this country by virtue of a series of circumstances. Suffice it to say that over a period of more than 50 years, about 10 percent of national income was spent on the development of the military- industrial complex. I obtained this figure from the CONVERSION-91 magazine, issue No. 6.

As a result, the country's economy ended up totally military- oriented and militarized. Now we can only effect the transition to the market through the demilitarization of the economy. It is an exceedingly complex and difficult problem, involving a whole series of obstacles, but, as one could gather from what Mikhail Nikolayevich Bazhanov said, the state committee has its blueprint for this. Here is what he says:

[Bazhanov] Our first task, we believe, is this. We have to examine in great detail what the enterprises of the defense sectors of industry actually amount to now, what they are capable of, and what state they have got themselves into. The point is that defense spending has been very sharply cut, and defense spending determines the extent of the conversion of the defense sectors of industry.

It has to be said that the defense industry is—one might say—the only thing in Russia that has not yet been destroyed in industry. It represents a single complex in some measure. In 1991 it even contrived to fulfill practically all its production plans and even to overfulfill them. Admittedly, I am immediately asked where the output is. We have checked it, and it is really true—not in money, not in volumes, not gross spending, but in actual items.

All the plans have been overfulfilled for TV sets, fridges, radios, and cassette players. But the panic buying is exceeding all possible limits, and people are taking everything they can. Entire families line up to get several packaged TV sets or fridges at a time; they just buy everything they can.

But in the context of market relations the defense complex has found itself the least protected in this sense. The state has failed to allocate practically any money for conversion, which is a very expensive pleasure. I can cite the following figure. If you withdraw 1 million rubles [R] worth of orders for armaments, you have to invest a minimum of R1,080,000 and on average R1,200,000 in conversion. You cannot turn some tap and immediately start turning out vacuum cleaners after having ceased production of machine guns.

Now many factories involved in mono-production, in other words factories that produce just one defense item, are now in the most serious and difficult predicament. The tasks we see ahead of us are to create conversion programs for each individual enterprise, to determine its ecological niche in the general conversion program, and to create regional conversion programs and then a general state program.

[Levin] Mikhail Bazhanov went into great detail on the human factor of conversion. It really is a very critical matter. It is not enough that people are idle, and once they are idle they do not receive wages, which is categorically unacceptable. It is necessary somehow to provide people with jobs. In this difficult period, people, innocent people—workers, engineers, technicians—must not suffer to any degree.

But this is only part of the problem. There will be another problem, after all, when the financing of the defense industry ceases, although this is undeniably necessary, extremely necessary. I said that our industry has been militarized and we will not get anywhere without liberation from this militarization. But one must also not forget that our brightest minds have been

concentrated precisely in this industry. This industry has attracted the most talented people.

Now, in so called NIOKR—this stands for scientific research experimental design work—there also is no money. Design offices, which consist of the most clever, most talented, most capable people, may find themselves under threat of closure as a result and are finding themselves under such a threat. Having lost this key personnel, we are losing a very great deal. So there are a great many problems here.

Lately, in conversations, a very great deal is being said about the problem of the sale of weapons. Mikhail Bazhanov also touched on this question in great detail:

[Bazhanov] There are many disagreements in this connection. Is it necessary to produce weapons for trade or not? Is it necessary to sell weapons at all? This is what I believe: One should sell weapons. The point is that as soon we stop the sale of weapons somewhere, in some region, country, etc, well, we are politely slapped on the back, and are told well done, disarm!

There and then this niche is occupied. Weapons are, so to speak, direct dollar earnings. I am convinced that the Americans, the Japanese, the French, and the Germans will immediately rush into these vacated niches. We talked for a very long time on this topic with U.S. Under Secretary of Defense Atwood—he was here with us—and in principle our ideas are identical.

Now when the defense complex is in a very grave situation there is the following possibility: sell the weapons which have accumulated in the Army, complete what was started last year and sell it; that is to say, do not arm our Army, we should not give arms to it now. There, indeed, one should make cuts and that is all there is to it. Sell all these surpluses, receive money and purchase food and machine attachments, etc, which we need.

Even Mr. Baker agreed with this yesterday. He spoke on television and stated that we need to pour another 5 billion dollars into the conversion of Russia. This is because Russia, possessing an immense nuclear potential, by virtue of the unpredictability of political phenomena in it, may turn out to be far more dangerous than if we support it and provide it with the possibility of carrying out a normal conversion and surface economically.

[Levin] Well, quite honestly, Baker did not advise us to sell weapons. He said that it was necessary to help implement conversion. Indeed the weapons sales problem is very acute and very complicated. It remains a fact that 85 percent of weapons are supplied to the world market, alas, by states which are permanent members of the Security Council; that is to say, those who bear special responsibility for the maintenance of peace, for the preservation of peace, in the first place.

The approach toward the problem of weapons sales is beginning to change somewhat. There have already been meetings. Discussion of how to coordinate one's actions is already going on. I fully realize that it will be some time before the Hemingway slogan 'Farewell to Arms' becomes reality. Unfortunately, we live in a world which is far from ideal. But, with weapons sales I think there is no disputing it; today there is no getting away from it. One needs to be extremely scrupulous. I would put it like this: that in politics one also cannot, under any circumstances, forget about morals, even when selling weapons. Weapons should, under no circumstances, be supplied to places where these weapons may serve as an inflammable material.

All states which are UN members, all states existing on Earth have the right to self-defense. Well, within these limits, the limits of reasonable sufficiency, no doubt we can and must sell weapons. But I repeat once more: This question must be examined also from the moral point of view. I will play you one more excerpt from Bazhanov's news conference; everything that is happening in our country, well, is simply beyond all bounds.

[Bazhanov] The needs are great, but there are two niceties here. First, everyone has now rushed in to sell arms. Various funds—large and small, cooperatives, individual enterprises and regions; everyone is writing letters asking for permission to sell weapons to maintain themselves. They are prepared to sell these weapons at any price. For a start, you must not unleash onto the international arms market a whole swarm of—I quote—commercial travellers.

We have many examples where frantic dumping has started, and this causes very stiff resistance from the international arms trade mafia. I say mafia in the good sense of the word, meaning an association. But this really is a very tight-knit worldwide community and they know each other very well. When it is proposed that every enterprise of ours should be selling weapons, and that the army should be selling weapons, and even giving these weapons to someone else for sale, there will be mayhem on the market. Prices will drop, and we will be pushed out because at the moment our economic and purely financial capacities are nothing like those of those who sell weapons worldwide.

In sheer quantity we are comparable, of course. At one stage we led the world in arms sales, and everyone knows that. But how did we sell weapons? We loaned credits to the states getting weapons from us, and then sold the weapons to them. We were virtually buying the weapons from ourselves. You will know that countries throughout the world have accumulated an unbelievable quantity of debt because of these weapons. It is going to be practically impossible to get the money back. I refer to Angola, Mozambique, Somalia, and Ethiopia.

We have made a number of attempts to rectify the situation. First, we have set up a foreign economic company for the export and import of armaments and military equipment and for rendering technical services. We have used the structures of the former ministry of foreign economic relations. They had those well-known

(GIU), (GTU) and (GUSK). But they were very corrupt organizations. They were headed by people whose great-great-grandchildren are going to be well-off and will never have to work, I think.

I refer to people like Admiral Grishin and Admiral Vlasov. They were discharged from the Army very quickly, but they are continuing to be very active, displaying the fact that they are experts, professionals, and so on.

This company should now basically be in charge of setting the arms market to rights. We are saying, yes, all producer enterprises can trade directly with arms firms. But they have to do it via this company, as the organizing authority. But basically, and this is the way it is done in America, we have now submitted a suggested decree to our president on the state's monopoly on trade. So the political aspect has to be verified. That means the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The economic aspect has to be verified. That means our Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, or rather Committee on Foreign Economic Relations. And then the technical aspect has to be verified.

After all this happens, black lists and white lists have to be drawn up which will clearly specify the countries to whom weapons can and cannot be sold, and what weapons can and cannot be sold. If that gets under way, the rest is simple. Enterprises can produce weapons surplus to army requirements. They inform the foreign economic company. The latter seeks a partner. But this must happen without prices being undermined on the world market, because it would not please our partners or competitors. And everything must be organized in a supervised manner. When it is all organized, a special commission will consider the matter and report to the president and he must decide whether to sell or refuse to do so.

[Levin] The arms trade is not of course the main thing. The crucial thing is conversion. We are at the moment seeing paradoxical things happening. While, according to the calculations of American specialists, there is a profit of 580 dollars per kg of weight in aircraft construction and in automobile construction just 10 dollars. The world market has a shortage of 1,500-2,000 Il-96 class airbuses and they have now frequently started making frying- pans at aircraft factories! This is terrible. It is awful. Mikhail Bazhanov gave a very interesting example.

[Bazhanov] I am preparing material for a TV program at the moment. We will demonstrate what design projects there are in Russia. I believe that this will be a surprise even for the Academy of Science and the former State Committee for Science and Technology. The designs include a generator which guarantees a 30 percent increase in yield even in the most extreme conditions. It has been tested on 800,000 ha over a period of three years. I spent a year arguing with Mr Kulik [former first deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers and RSFSR minister of agriculture] and his deputy, Semin. Silayev too tried to get him to deal with these matters.

Eventually I decided to go ahead anyway and gave orders for farms to be contacted directly. The farms which used the generator found that it could process 150 metric tonnes of grain in 15 minutes. It then takes five days to sow. These are precise figures I am giving you. It guarantees a 30 percent increase in the yield. The record-setters actually achieved 100 percent increases. In the Crimea winter barley, which normally achieves a yield of 40 quintals per hectare on a sample field, yielded 140 quintals on one which had been treated in this way. Maize yielded 117 quintal per hectare in the most arid zone of Kazakhstan. In Uzbekistan cotton yielded 87 bolls per plant, against a normal maximum of 20.

A very interesting device for the inversion cooling and liquefaction of gas has been developed. All the greatest inventions are simple, and experiments have shown that this very simple mechanism can be simply screwed onto the casing-head of a gas well. Thirty percent of the flow is immediately converted to liquid methane, with the rest coming out as cooled gas. And so the process goes on. As a result we can get liquefied gas straight out of the well. The field of application is unbelievably wide. When used with compressed air, cooling takes place within one-and-a-half minutes. Within one-and-a-half minutes the thermometer shows minus 87 degrees, with pressure at 30 atmospheres and a consumption of 30 cubic meters per minute. In other words we can freeze any product instantaneously. This means that meat and fish can be kept in their original state either in cold stores or aboard trawlers, without ammonia, freon and other cryogens. That is an example for you.

[Levin] Even with all its difficulties, conversion is absolutely necessary, and even the example cited by Mikhail Bazhanov—and one could cite a lot of other similar examples—shows that conversion can already today give our national economy and all of us a lot of very tangible and concrete fruits. One must never forget under any circumstances—I repeat again, for the third time—that without conversion and the demilitarization of our industry, we shall not lead normal lives.

The difficulties and problems we are coming up against today are to a decisive extent caused by this insane militarization of our economy. It is difficult, without a doubt. You cannot in a month, in two months or even a year redress the actions of decades. But we have no other way. And today we must on no account take fright and turn back. If that happened, a complete collapse would await us. There is hope after all, and I think that the stance of the chairman of the state conversion committee gives one grounds for a certain amount of hope.

Further Bazhanov Comments

LD0602193292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1315 GMT 6 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Feb (TASS)—"The defense industry is the only industry in Russia which has not been destroyed", therefore the conversion issue should be dealt with cautiously. This was stated by Mikhail Bazhanov, chairman of the State Committee for Conversion Issues under the President of the Russian Federation, to journalists at the press center of the Russian Government.

He said that the defense industry, unlike other industries, not only fulfilled but also overfulfilled all production plans for the manufacture of consumer goods in 1991.

Touching directly upon the problem of regulating the conversion process, Mikhail Bazhanov noted that the state "practically did not allocate any money for conversion this year." He gave figures, according to which, for example, a reduction in military orders by 1 million rubles [R] required conversion investments of R1.2 million. According to him, it is relatively easy to implement conversion in aviation, shipbuilding, and in electronics. It, however, cannot be painlessly carried out at factories which only produce tanks and guns.

According to Mikhail Bazhanov, due to sharp reduction in military expenditure in Russia—by 7 times for armaments purchases, and by two-thirds for scientific-research and experimental-design works in the industry—"hundreds of thousands of people may be under discussion" and they will be forced to leave their jobs. At the same time, proceeding from considerations of confidentiality, he refused to give the total number of people in Russia employed in the military-industrial complex (MIC). He did say, however, that "the figure given by foreign sources does not correspond to reality by dozens of millions of people." He spoke in favor of making every effort to prevent "the brain drain" of the Russian MIC abroad, and "not to lose workers with high qualifications."

Touching upon the issue of selling military equipment abroad, Mikhail Bazhanov said: "I think that we should sell arms, since these are direct dollar earnings". At present the Army has a stock of arms, the sale of which one could earn $10 billion, he noted. A state foreign economic committee has been set up to coordinate the sale of arms by Russian enterprises. This includes exporting and importing arms and military equipment and for providing technical services. He also announced that a decree by the Russian president is being prepared on state monopoly on arms sales.

Servicemen's Committee Becomes State Body

LD0602204992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] The Russian Government has established that the Committee for the Social Provision of Servicemen is henceforth to be a state government body. It is to develop and monitor the implementation of the state program to provide social protection for servicemen on the Republic's territory.

Official Calls For Continuation of Arms Sales

OW0602155892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Russian president's Committee for Conversion Mikhail Bazhanov believes that Russia should continue to export armaments. "If we stop doing so, we shall be praised and politely patted on the back, but the newly vacant niche will be immediately filled by someone else," he said at a press conference on Thursday [6 February]. Nevertheless one can't let out a multitude of unprepared and incompetent traders into the world market, he said. Even small cooperatives are eager to sell arms, at any prices, he said.

He said that arms sales should be put under state control (both economic and political). The Committee has drafted a corresponding decree, he said, and handed it to the Russian president.

The aggregate worth of armaments which are currently stored in the Russian garrisons located in Eastern Europe and which could be sold, amounts to "at least 10 billion dollars", he noted. "All types of our armaments are quite competitive," he added.

Mikhail Bazhanov said that the privatization programme for the defence industry has not been properly developed. This, he said, has created a situation whereby "the defence complex is being torn apart by various exchanges, industrial associations and other agencies".

Coup Investigation Team May Be Disbanded

LD0602230192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 6 Feb 92

[From the "Vesti" Newscast]

[Text] Yevgeniy Lisov, deputy general procurator of Russia, warns that unless the necessary funds are allocated very soon, the investigating team will have to be disbanded, and all action regarding those accused in connection with the State Committee for the State of Emergency [SCSE] case suspended.

Union Commission Holder of Coup Files Vanishes

PM0602161192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 Feb 92 p 1

[Report by S. Drozdov: "Aleksandr Obolenskiy Three Weeks a Wanted Man"]

[Text] It all started as follows: The Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium decided that the commission to investigate the activities of the SCSE [State Committee for the State of Emergency], headed by Ponomarev, would finish its work by 15 February. But Ponomarev was hoping to demonstrate that it was too early to wind up and he had intended to make use of the materials of the

analogous commission of the former Union parliament, led by Aleksandr Obolenskiy. Incidentally, Obolenskiy was to have handed over all the materials to Ponomarev.

But three weeks ago Obolenskiy... disappeared.

On 27 December Obolenskiy's commission held a final news conference, and on the following day the experts went their separate ways. A few "liquidators" remained in Moscow to prepare the materials for submission and to hand over the premises at 27 Kalinin Street. According to B. Yeltsin's instructions, it was all supposed to be over by 20 January.

It has been established so far that Obolenskiy was supposed to hand over the archives late on 18 January and go to Apatity (his family lives in Apatity, Murmansk Oblast), and then he was supposed to return to Moscow in mid-February.

His absence was noticed a week later. A child's voice on the telephone from Apatity said that "daddy has gone to Kurgan Oblast." Apparently the family of Viktor Nasonov, Obolenskiy's assistant, lives in the village of Krasnomylskoye, Shadrinskiy Rayon, in that very oblast. A telegram was sent there, but there was no reply. Another one went out yesterday, saying that unless Aleksandr Mitrofanovich returns the documents he will be dealt with by the prosecutor's office.

KGB Agents' Recall Demanded by Democrats

LD0602230292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 6 Feb 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast presented by Yuriy Rostov]

[Text] The political council of the coalition of Moscow's democratic forces has demanded that KGB agents be immediately recalled from political parties and movements. Representatives of the former KGB confirmed recently that KGB agents have currently merely mothballed their activity.

Implementation of Law on Media Takes Effect

LD0602133592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1055 GMT 6 Feb 92

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Feb (TASS)—The search for and the reception, production, and dissemination of mass information are not subject to restrictions, except for those provided for by Russian legislation on the media [sredstva massovoy informatsii]. This is laid out by a law of the Russian Federation on the media which came into effect today. It is not permitted to create and finance organizations, establishments, bodies, and persons whose tasks include censorship of the media.

Henceforth, Russian legislation on the media will consist of a law on the media and other acts of legislation issued in accordance with it, and also of legislation on the media of the republics within the Russian Federation.

According to the law, a citizen, an association of citizens, an organization, or a state body may be a media founder. The media's activities may be halted or suspended only at the founder's decision or by the courts. A federal commission for television and radio broadcasting is being set up to draw up state policy in the sphere of licensing.

The law introduces restrictions on the distribution of radio and television programs of an erotic nature. Programs of such a nature may be broadcast only during the period from 2300 to 0400 local time, if a different time has not been established by the local administration. Retail sale of products of the media specializing in materials of an erotic nature is permitted only in sealed transparent packaging and on the premises especially designated for this.

The document says that the editorial board has the right to request information on the activities of state bodies, organizations, public associations, and their officials. Refusal to provide information is possible only if it contains a state, commercial, or any other secret which is especially protected by law. In this case, a notice of refusal should be submitted to the editorial board within three days from the time a written request for information is received.

The Russian law on the media presents the editorial board with the obligation not to reveal the name of a person who provides it with information, if that person so requests. An exception can be made only in cases where a corresponding demand is received from a court in connection with a pertinent case.

According to the document, the state guarantees a journalist protection of his honor, dignity, health, life, and property, just like a person carrying out his public duty. Journalists are not allowed to use their professional rights to conceal or falsify information of public significance, to circulate rumors, or to gather information which might benefit people or organizations which do not bear relation to the media.

The law also guarantees to citizens of Russia free access to materials of the foreign media.

The implementation of the law on the media which was adopted on 27 December last year was delayed for more than a month due to criticism by a number of deputies and media representatives regarding the wording of some articles. The law took effect after a number of addenda and amendments had been introduced to its text.

Paper Upset by Exclusion From Yeltsin Briefing

PM0602144392 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
5 Feb 92 p 1

[Unattributed report plus postscript: "Not Enough Tea for PRAVDA..."]

[Text] The Russian President met with mass media leaders in the Kremlin yesterday. The participants in the meeting included Ye. Yakovlev, O. Poptsov, and V. Yugin, chairmen of Russia's state television and radio companies, as well as the chief editors of IZVESTIYA, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, TRUD, ARGUMENTY I FAKTY, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, and MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS. M. Poltoranin, Russian minister of the press and information, took part in the conversation.

The meeting discussed the results of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Britain, the United States, and Canada, urgent questions of the republic's life, and problems facing the mass media at present.

The most urgent themes, in the words of Igor Golembiovskiy, chief editor of IZVESTIYA, are the problems of the survival of newspapers and the financial difficulties facing television and radio. Russian Press and Information Minister Mikhail Poltoranin has given Boris Yeltsin a draft government resolution on the allocation of subsidies to the mass media, Igor Golembiovskiy told your ITAR-TASS correspondent. According to his information, the government has not adopted this resolution and therefore the final word in the solution of this urgent problem rests with the Russian president.

Postscript: As we can see, this meeting—both with regard to international contacts and the survival of the press—was highly meaningful. Unfortunately, there was not enough tea to go round, as they say, so PRAVDA was not invited to this briefing—no one was asked to represent the newspaper. Furthermore, certain others were left out, too—SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, SELSKAYA ZHIZN... The plan is clear—it is to cut "undesirable" publications off from information. Well, what the boss says goes, only it should not be forgotten that these newspapers have millions of readers. In this instance it is to them first and foremost that the disrespect has been shown, not to some out-of-favor journalists.

(Incidentally, we asked our correspondents in India and Krasnodar to send some extra tea for future meetings).

Objectivity of TV's Ukraine Coverage Questioned

PM0602124792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
30 Jan 92 p 3

[Correspondent Nikolay Mironov "Opinion" article: "There Is No Need To Kick Each Other"]

[Text] Dnepropetrovsk—I do not know who is reacting to the television news or what their reaction is, but recently I have been feeling nothing but exasperation. Starting in the afternoon, we have to watch and listen to the news nine times. Three times on the First Channel, three on Ukrainian Television, and three on Russian Television. My mood is such that I would happily switch off this bothersome box, but I cannot—a purely professional requirement makes it essential to know what is happening where. And things are happening in such a way that it is not so simple for "ordinary" television viewers to make out what is going on.

The screen shows a turbulent rally in Sevastopol. S. Baburin is making a speech appealing to the Crimeans who are present to switch to Russian jurisdiction. He would never dare, I think, to make a similar appeal anywhere in Sicily or Corsica; he would be brought to book in a flash. Well, tell me, who would allow a parliamentarian from another country, albeit an extremely friendly one, to turn up in his neighbors' country and teach them how to live? It can be done in our country. And apparently we are not supposed to protest or object.

Or another example. Recently three Russian parliamentarians have made speeches about a decision drawn up by the Yakut parliament with which they disagree, and they are intending to travel there in order to "influence" the results of the discussion. Indeed, I do not know what the Yakuts will say about this. They will appeal to television viewers and ask for their support. But what is their argument? "Otherwise the same thing that happened to the poor old USSR will happen in our country. Our own Kravchuks, Shushkevich's, and Nazarbayevs will emerge..."

It would be interesting to know, I think, whether these parliamentarians would be able to kick Mitterrand, Kohl, or Walesa quite so casually. I doubt it! Such a blasphemous thought would never enter their heads. When conducting an interview with a colonel, why do my television colleagues allow themselves to dub out what he says without batting an eyelid—they do not like his answer, you see—and replace it with their own translation that provides a completely different interpretation? After all, just one hour previously the entire Ukraine was watching and listening to this interview on its news program with the real voice supplied.

In the wake of these distortions, what should the Ukrainian television viewer do with his box? Switch it off? Or take up his pen and fire off some protests? No, he will not write, he does not have the time. But a protest will undoubtedly well up in his heart. And tomorrrow, after viewing more news from Moscow, this protest will grow stronger. The day after tomorrow it will become so firmly lodged in his brain that it will be impossible to prize it out.

"Because of its coupons, the Ukraine is currently hitting us with its rubles," the on-screen commentary says with conviction. "They are coming over here for food and bringing their spare rubles with them..." Once again I am bewildered, because yesterday I watched the Moscow

train departing from the railroad station: People were taking bags full of food off to hungry Moscow. And nobody has got any spare rubles, which means that many people have not been paid since December.

Where does this information come from? From the old habit of thinking of the Ukraine as Little Russia, I suppose. And if someone there suddenly conceives a desire to have their own army, currency, or fleet, this is just "nationalism," "arrogance," "attempts to disrupt things," and so on. Why is this not seen as "awareness of national worth?" Why is no attempt made to understand the desire to behave as it behooves a self-respecting power to behave once it has decided its statehood at a referendum? Things are getting absurd, you know. R. Khasbulatov, who recently gave an interview to Kurkova, reasoned thus: "We understand a state's striving to have its own currency and army. But why does the Ukraine need these things?! An army will not feed it. Why do 20 million Ukrainians need an army of 500,000 men?"

I can understand the incompetence that occasionally slips into Kurkova's questions. But how am I to understand the incompetence of the parliamentary chairman who "does not know" that the Ukraine is striving for an army of not 500,000 but 200,000 men. And that there are not 20 million but over 50 million people living in the Ukraine.

Attempts are made to convince us that television's First Channel is the channel of cooperation. Well, do not demonstrate this by declarations, do it by using objective information that does not offend or insult anybody. If our political leaders cannot do this, how about us journalists having a go?

Minister on State Property Privatization

PM0602172092 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No. 3, 19-26 Jan 92 p 10

[Interview with Anatoliy Chubays, chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for the Control and Management of Property, by Vladimir Orlov; date, place not given: "Privatizing State Property"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] No matter what 1992 may be like, it will in any case be the Year of Grand Privatization. Such is the view of Anatoliy Chubays. Last autumn this 36-year-old candidate of economic sciences headed the Russian Federation's State Committee for the Control and Management of Property, received the rank of minister, and is the sponsor and the main architect of the privatization programme.

Who approved

Q.: It was unclear right up until New Year's eve whether or not the programme would be adopted and, if so, by whom? There was talk of opposition from the parliament's leadership.

A.: As soon as the decision on commencing privatization was approved by the Russian government (this happened at its last session in 1991) Boris Yeltsin interrupted the session and got in touch with Ruslan Khasbulatov, the speaker of the Russian parliament. Originally the programme was expected to be put through parliament, implying its adoption no earlier than February, and hence a halt in the course of the entire reform. Khasbulatov seemed to appreciate Yeltsin's arguments, convened the Supreme Soviet's Presidium and the same night the programme received unanimous support at a joint meeting of the government and parliament's leadership. This cost the programme's developers three sleepless nights, but the objective was reached.

What is on sale

In the first nine months of the year mandatory privatization must extend to shops, canteens, ordinary service enterprises, construction, food and light industries. Unprofitable enterprises in different sectors of the economy, mothballed facilities and "frozen" projects must be unconditionally privatized.

Among the list of objects not to be privatized in 1992 is Russia's state treasury, mineral wealth, timber resources, air space, guarded natural territories, and historical-cultural heritage. The main communications, the property of the Armed Forces, the mobilizational reserves and the enterprises for the production of spacecraft will not be privatized... The list is not long. Everything apart from its contents can be sold to private owners either by decision of the local authorities or—in special cases—by decision of the Russian government.

Who will buy

Q.: According to your estimates, the population could spend as much as 90 billion roubles on privatization in 1992. But are you sure that the people really have this kind of money?

A.: If we compare the disposable income which the population is ready to invest in privatization today with what they had a year ago, it has certainly shrunk. But we proceed from the findings of sociological polls and polls taken among representatives of the "second (non-state) economy". According to this information, there is no pretext for pessimism.

Moreover, the increase in prices has a role to play. On the one hand, it detracts from the population's opportunities. But on the other, with inflation on the rampage, it is much more profitable to invest money in privatization than to deposit it in a savings bank or hide it under the pillow.

At what price

Our objective today is to set up a social stratum, geared and committed to privatization. To achieve this, corresponding instruments are necessary.

Q.: With this aim in view, a decision has been taken on the transfer of 25 per cent of state property to the work collectives. Is that right?

A.: Yes, it is.

Q.: But why was it decided to simply transfer the property without compensation rather than sell it very cheaply? This looks politics.

A.: If we didn't accept that, the work collectives would hardly support privatization. But now they have "suddenly" shown an interest in the law and started egging on the administration. The state has to pay for this social awakening, otherwise the best bits of property would have been sold without undue noise at the citizens' cost.

Q.: But for all that, you have given up the introduction of inscribed privatization deposits, haven't you? They were envisaged by Russia's Law "On Inscribed Privatization Accounts and Deposits in the RSFSR" and also looked like a worthy means of provoking a "social awakening".

A.: We have not renounced them. But when I took my current post I immediately came to understand that we wouldn't be able to quickly fulfill this promise. To finance this effort, we would have needed 1,600 million roubles plus 40 million dollars. Where is the office equipment? Where are the premises—to develop a system of inscribed deposits. Would we have to double the floor space of savings banks all over Russia? We decided therefore that the introduction of deposits had to be put off until early 1993.

How to sell

Q.: Privatization commenced a year ago or earlier—spontaneous and smacking of legal abuses. Local privatizers are in a hurry to catch as big fish as possible in troubled waters. Purchasing state property is becoming synonymous with the word "grab". Don't you find this embarrassing?

A.: The picture you described has been absolutely unavoidable until now. We produced the key documents in a record-breaking short time, in the few weeks before the new year. So that now the legal basis is appearing, catching up with the incipient spontaneous process. This is not enough, however. We need a whole package of methodological documents: what should be the procedure for appraising property? What rights should the local committees for the control and management of property have? How does one organize the auctions at which, incidentally, nine-tenths of state property will be sold? All these documents will be ready for approval not later than January 25. Preliminarily they will be examined by independent legal and economic experts.

Q.: But in all probability you already know who directly will deal with the sale of property in the localities. An army of highly-skilled specialists will be needed.

A.: The committees for the control and management of property and the property funds will become the working bodies of privatization. We need one employee in privatization bodies per 3,000 inhabitants. Therefore we must increase the number of privatization employees by at least 15 times.

Q.: That's hard to imagine...

A.: Most new personnel will come to us from sectors gripped with redundancies now. We have requested the Central Bank of Russia to grant us a 500-million-rouble credit to purchase office and communications equipment.

Privatization spreads across the country

We are ready to unfold Grand Privatization from one end of Russia to the other. Mandatory assignments on privatization have been developed for the territories, regions, Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Q.: This looks very much like the familiar central "planning". What will those who fulfill the shop privatization plan by, say, 98 per cent get?

A.: No, we shall not sack anyone. Moreover, for the constituent republics of Russia the figures are more like recommendations. But what's interesting, is that we are receiving requests from the localities to send more such guideposts. We will encourage those who overfulfill the plan.

The plan for Moscow, for example, envisages one in two wholesale depots and public catering enterprises, 60 per cent of automotive transport and enterprises of the light industry and everyday services, and a half of the food industry should be transferred into private hands in 1992... The capital's municipal property will be privatized by independently drawn up rules and schedules.

In general we intend to work quickly.

Agriculture Minister Interviewed on Food Supply

OW0702073792 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1900 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Interview with Viktor Nikolayevich Khlystun, minister of agriculture and food, by Sergey Lomakin; from the "Utro" program—live]

[Text] [Lomakin] Well, as promised, I present our studio guest, Viktor Nikolayevich Khlystun, minister for agriculture and food. It is not by chance that we invited you to our studio to talk about this—I am sure you can guess why. Because, the main problem that the inhabitants of the country are encountering today in connection with the increase in prices, or liberalization, is that food has become unbelievably expensive; however, it absolutely does not mean that it has become plentiful. Where then is the sense in all this liberalization? Pardon me, but I honestly cannot understand. The kilometers-long lines for food have remained as before.

[Khlystun] It is difficult to suppose that in a period of literally two weeks that the shelves would be filled with goods, including food. The freeing up of prices today, nevertheless, gives the peasants an opportunity to have a greater interest in increasing the volume of agricultural production. As far as the fairly high prices today are concerned, there are a number of factors. The cost of agricultural production increased sharply due to the excessively high prices for agricultural equipment, and building materials. But, besides this, the contribution to the budget from the value-added tax withholdings is quite significant. This significantly increases the cost of agricultural production. But, nevertheless, during the past few days, first, a leveling of prices between various regions is occurring and, second, some reduction in prices for agricultural products has been observed.

[Lomakin] A small reduction, if you could call it that...

[Khlystun, interrupting] Yes, a very small reduction.

[Lomakin continuing] ...which, generally speaking, with our poverty, is not worth mentioning at present. You know how sometimes one hears all kinds of talk in lines, and it basically comes down to this: We are prepared to pay high prices for food, but save us from lines, save us from that demeaning condition of having to extract, scratch out the products from the shops. And what have we reduced our pensioners to, those who stand in these lines while the younger members of the family are at work? Is there a realistic chance that products might become more available in the next two or three months?

[Khlystun] It should become a little easier, but one should not count on there being an abundance of food in the immediate future. Until we change the economic system in the agricultural industry and increase the real output from each hectare of land, and until we are no longer at the mercy of weather conditions as happened this year, it is doubtful whether we can guarantee to fully satisfy the demand for agricultural products. But nevertheless, the agricultural reform that has just been started, spawning owners in joint stock companies and in the farming industry, must sharply increase the volume of production. But, for this, a certain amount of time, at least a minimum of two years, will be needed.

[Lomakin] Viktor Nikolayevich, are you taking into account that at present, the majority of the population is living on what they had been able to buy up, knowing of the forthcoming price increases; and that they have filled up their refrigerators and larders with food, grains, and so on and so on? After three months all that will be eaten, another three months and the money will be gone, and people will generally face a very serious problem of impoverished and semi-starved existence. Is the government taking into account that in three months—or two, or four or five, I do not know—that there could be very serious social unrest?

[Khlystun] It goes without saying that we are in control of the situation, however, I must tell you that meat and milk products are being stocked up in meat combine refrigerators at present. While prices are still fluctuating, while certain contradictions exist between traders and producers, a certain amount is being accumulated.

Every day there is an increase—though it might not be a significant one, nevertheless a bit more—in agricultural products in practically every territory. The only worry at the moment is in the supply of whole milk. Today, at the government meeting the subject of discussion was bread. There is absolutely no critical situation present here, however, it is sufficiently worrying nonetheless.

At present, we are undertaking a number of measures, such as buying up additional amounts of grain domestically and through imports. I think that there will not be any problems with bread. Problems with meat, in the main, will also be resolved, and seeing that there is now more meat being supplied from agricultural enterprises, and (?steadily) the supplies of meat are increasing. However, there are difficulties with milk at the moment.

[Lomakin] Right now rumors are circulating that food supplies will increase in February. I do not know how accurate they are; it is not up to me to judge, but I am sure the responsible offices must know. But the question is: As far as I know, the market is the very sieve through which foodstuffs pass, and the unprivatized market represents a very lucrative arena for the accumulation of illegal money. This might happen if products are not put on the market, people wait around for increases, etc. There are a million cases where products are discovered hoarded in warehouses or in market workers' homes.

[Khlystun] You are absolutely right. We could say that analysis reveals that the cheapest goods are in private shops, those that have been privatized. Within the market, there are currently certain mutual cover-ups and consultations conducted in order to maintain prices; this is very detrimental. It is not coincidental that at today's government meeting we discussed liquidation of structures that create a certain corporate mindset and hinder normal market price regulation.

[Lomakin] Viktor Nikolayevich, how can we liquidate? Once again we must use the administration's terminology. The president, having toured the Volga regions, has really turned his attention to trade problems and has said that these should be eradicated. But how can it be ended? By shutting them down, dismissing them, [words indistinct]?

[Khlystun] Why must we be afraid of the word liquidate? If certain administrative structures—and these are administrative structures—hinder the normal functioning of the market, they must be removed. There is no need to fear this.

[Lomakin] But so much has been liquidated recently...

[Khlystun, interrupting] Naturally, if something is liquidated, something must be immediately substituted. That substitute must be economic and legal independence for

shops and collectives of those shops, as well as creation of competitive trade. These things must be substituted. This is normal.

[Lomakin] Yesterday, it was announced that total Western aid to the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] was $89 billion. That includes past, present, and future aid. This is of course principally food aid. But somehow we do not particularly feel its impact. Maybe we see its benefits for children, who get tinned meat and milk at school, but we do not see it in the stores. Where is this food aid?

[Khlystun] I cannot answer since this question is not in the sphere of my competence.

[Lomakin] I understand, but it is somewhat linked.

[Khlystun] Nevertheless, I think that current distribution of this aid is far from perfect. Far from perfect, to put it mildly. As I see it, the aid is accumulating in some warehouse. Bad management is impeding effective distribution to the population, but fraud has a place in there somewhere, it seems to me, but I am not prepared to state this with certainty.

[Lomakin] Viktor Nikolayevich, as minister in charge of agricultural economy, are you confident that the fields will be sown in the spring and that we will ready for harvest? Or will the fields remain half sown?

[Khlystun] No, this must not happen.

[Lomakin] Undoubtedly, this should not happen, I quite agree. But are you confident that it will not?

[Khlystun] This will not happen, because in general preparations for spring are proceeding normally. Autumn sowing was quite successful; we sowed more than last year. I am wary of saying that it was good, so as not to jinx it. So far, the weather has been normal, and we have seed. There are difficulties with spare parts, gas, lubricants and pesticides. But these difficulties have can be solved. I think we will be ready for spring. It stands to reason that the sowing will not be light.

[Lomakin] Nevertheless, Viktor Nikolayevich, who will save us—the farmers, the sovkhozes, the kolkhozes, as they were called in the past—which structures among the population will save and feed us?

[Khlystun] All three. Today, I would not single out one particular type of production organization and expect it to assume full responsibility for feeding the country. We are talking about many different types of agricultural endeavors. In accordance with government decrees and decisions adopted at the end of last year and the beginning of this year, joint stock corporations are envisaged, that is, switching kolkhozes and sovkhozes to collective enterprises with share ownership. This creates more opportunities for development of the peasant economy. We have given everyone the right to choose how to farm and have created realistic opportunities for these choices. I think that next year we will have on the order of 250,000 to 300,000 peasant farming enterprises, but the bulk of the land will be in the hands of joint stock associations and collective enterprises, albeit with share ownership. That is, every peasant must become a co-owner. This may be a transitional stage, but it will be around for the next few years.

[Lomakin] One last question, Viktor Nikolayevich. The president has promised us that in eight.... [changes thought] seven months there will be a significant improvement in the situation—if not prosperity, then at least a sense of the good life. How long do you think before people and the state can expect a change?

[Khlystun] I think that if we have normal sowing, and carry out summer work normally, then we will reach near normal levels by fall regarding the food situation.

[Lomakin] Thank you for coming in to our studio, Viktor Nikolayevich, and thank you for telling us some interesting stuff. I hope that we are not feeding the viewers with promises, and that in a short period of time, the government and state will actually be in a position to feed the population—that is, the population will be able to feed itself in the end.

[Khlystun] That is exactly what I want to emphasize. A lot depends on the population itself. We have provided the opportunity to obtain vegetable and garden plots, and this year, this has already yielded something. The population needs to exploit these opportunities more. I would not like to make absolutely reassuring promises, because everything depends on a number of factors, but in the first instance, it all depends on the people in the cities and the villages. If city folk become imbued with the needs of the farming industry, understand that if they do not help the farming industry today through lowering agricultural equipment prices and by delivering more efficient agricultural equipment, and if the farming industry does not understand their responsibilities to city folk, then without this reciprocal responsibility, the situation will not improve regardless of what promises a minister may make.

[Lomakin] Thank you, Viktor Nikolayevich, I wish you every success, because you are the person in the first row.

[Khlystun] Thank you.

Academician Takes Issue With Tax Policies

PM0602161792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Feb 92 p 2

[Gennadiy Ivanov "Economist's View": "Tax Grip Has Relaxed Slightly, But..."]

[Excerpts] As reported yesterday, the Russian Government has taken "some corrective measures in the sphere of the mechanism for levying value added tax." What lies behind this flowery phrase?

Value-added tax has been removed from the incomes of public catering enterprises—cafeterias of educational

institutions, kindergartens, hospitals, and other establishments in the sociocultural sphere funded from the budget. For sales of flour, pasta and hulled products, milk, kefir, cottage cheese, and vegetable oil to consumers the value-added tax rate has been set at 15 percent. However, this does not apply to enterprises engaged in the industrial processing of the said products. Many others too have not felt any relaxation of the tax grip. [passage omitted]

In the opinion of economists, particularly Academician Petrakov, in order to rectify the situation it is necessary to quickly and thoroughly change the tax policy—in particular, to differentiate tax rates. This will help to restrain the production slump. It is necessary to provide better incentives for those enterprises that are increasing output, the academician believes, and to establish tougher tax rates for those that are reducing output but increasing prices instead.

Statistics Show Drop in 1991 Food Production

PM0602164192 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 6 Feb 92 p 2

[Boxed statistical table, based on Russian State Committee for Statistics report, incorporated in V. Petrunya article under the heading: "With Empty Plate. People Will Have to Say Goodbye to Illusions of a Replete Life"]

[Text] Five percent less capital investment than in 1990 was been channeled in 1991 into implementing the programs to revive the Russian countryside and to develop the agro-industrial complex by means of all sources of finance.

Production of Individual Types of Food

	1991	1991 as percentage of 1990
Meat (industrial production)—million tonnes	5.6	84
Sausage products—million tonnes	2.1	91
Whole-milk products (in milk equivalent)—million tonnes	18.5	89
Butter—thousand tonnes	724	87
Edible fish products (including cannedfish)—million tonnes	3.8	89

Yeltsin Urged To 'Show Concern' for People

PM0602141792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Feb 92 p 2

[ITAR-TASS report followed by Aleksandr Ilin "View From Editorial Office": "Who 'We' Are And Who 'You' Are"]

[Text] **B.N. Yeltsin's Statement**

At a news conference at the end of the Russian-British talks, ITAR-TASS reports, Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin said: "The talks were distinguished by honest, frank dialogue, which must always characterize Russian-British relations in the future..." B.N. Yeltsin also declared: "Russia has finally cast off the communist chains and has finally taken the civilized path of development. It sees no alternative to this path. It is its last chance and we will not leave this path—the path of democracy, freedom, and protection of human and civil rights, the path of civilized market development and multiple forms of ownership, including private ownership. The reform we in the Soviet Union dallied over for five years began 2 January, and of course is tough going. Nonetheless, we declare that we do not intend to stray from this path, although it is going to be hard for our population, for the Russian people, particularly during the period of transition to price liberalization. We are sure that economic stabilization will begin by the end of the year, prices will begin to level out, and people's living standards will begin to improve.

"The reforms in Russian can misfire only if there is general discontent. If that happens, 'new leaders' will come to power who will take the path of police measures, the path of dictatorship, so not only Russia and the people of Russia, but the entire world community, including Britain, is interested in the success of the reform, and we are grateful that Mr. Prime Minister reacted appropriately and backed the reforms in Russia. Russia will always respond accordingly."

View From the Editorial Office

In recent days the Russian president has on more than one occasion voiced his intention to construct relations with Western countries on a new foundation. And his actual steps, for example in the disarmament sphere, indicate that our president does what he says. This has to noted and supported.

But, evidently, even the resolute Russian leader finds it rather difficult to discard the old accoutrements.

What is it that has grated most on people at home during the recent foreign trips by our former bosses? Not only the rare verbosity, but, to put it mildly, the rather pitiful desire to tell foreign leaders and journalists that perestroyka is in full swing in our country, that democratization is continuing, and so on and so forth.

Boris Nikolayevich does not care about perestroyka, of course—indeed, he does not even mention it. But on the banks of the Thames and on his arrival in the United States for some reason he saw fit to keep telling his hosts that Russia had finally cast off the communist chains and taken the civilized path of development. Did the Russian leader doubt that B.N. Yeltsin's views were well known to the British and the Americans? They are, after all, well informed people and hardly need confirmation that Boris Nikolayevich has totally rejected the communist past—his own and Russia's. This is well known from the president's actions prior to August 1991 and particularly since.

You might doubt whether the whole of Russia "sees no alternative path," but our leaders—past and present—are accustomed only to speaking on behalf of the whole country, the whole people. So you do not immediately appreciate who the "we" who are sure that everything will be fine here by the end of the year represent? The president himself, his closest colleagues, or the "we" who may not last until the end of the year, since we are already making ends meet only with the greatest difficulty?

Of course, these questions would never occur to the foreign populace—they know for whom a particular politician speaks. But we, his compatriots, would like to know, albeit after the Londoners and Washingtonians, how, in conditions of crazy prices and empty shelves, we can avoid the "general discontent" with which our leaders and the inhabitants of other countries are threatening us? And what exactly are they doing to placate their own people, aside from rallying cries to the effect that if their reforms misfire new—in inverted commas—leaders will appear and start establishing their own dictatorship with the help of police batons?

It is to be hoped that on his return home the Russian president will have something reassuring to tell us too, and, most important, will actually show concern for people, who also want, like him, to be confident about the future.

Gorbachev Interviewed on End of Soviet Union

924C0548A Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian No 6, 5 Feb 92 p 9

[Interview with Mikhail Gorbachev by Italian weekly PANORAMA; place and date not given: "I Do Not Intend to Head the Opposition"]

[Text] **The influential Italian weekly PANORAMA, with assistance from LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, was the first foreign publication to obtain an interview with Gorbachev since his retirement.**

[PANORAMA] A month has passed since you left the president's chair. What have been your observations during this month?

[Gorbachev] This month has been special and next month will also be very significant in terms of where the processes will go from here... In a recent conversation with President Yeltsin I said that I do not intend to develop an opposition movement, not to mention head it up. My positions will remain the same as long as the transformations continue and reforms take place. But this does not relieve me of the responsibility of noting weaknesses. It was necessary to travel the path of interpretation and also prepare society for the fact that without the market it would not be possible to put incentives in place so that processes leading to well-being would occur in the economy. Society is now in favor of the market, and this is very important. But since a good deal of time has passed, we now have to act radically. We should have thought of the fact that the removal of price controls had to be preceded by measures for providing incentives for the producer, the entrepreneur, the peasant, and the merchant. We did not manage to do this and this was not taken into account in the tax policy. The exact same thing is true with respect to the credit policy and the monopolists, who have gotten completely out of hand and are even halting production. President Yeltsin recently stated publicly that certain adjustments would be made. I do not know whether he will be able to carry them out.

[PANORAMA] Do you continue to be alarmed about the fate of democracy in the former Soviet Union, and where is the threat coming from?

[Gorbachev] This has to do primarily with the fact that instability is increasing. If it reaches the point where the people go out into the streets, there will be the question of how to carry on, how to control them. This is why we must work actively right now to make sure that things do not reach that critical point. In this connection I would again put forth the slogan of the need for harmony. If representatives of various political trends are drawn into a fight and confront one another face to face, forgetting about the state of the people and society... In the face of such a threat we must set aside all our disagreements for the sake of the success of the reform.

[PANORAMA] How did you feel when they lowered the red flag in the Kremlin?

[Gorbachev] I thought they were making what might be their largest political mistake. For me the termination of the functioning of the Union as a unified country was very dramatic. I formulated my viewpoint a year and a half ago: We must proceed toward a new Union in which the sovereignty of the republics proclaimed in the Constitution would actually be realized. This community of peoples living on an immense territory had already developed in such a way that there were no state borders here, only administrative ones, and tens of millions of people were living outside their national formations. Therefore the dismemberment and disintegration of the country, accompanied by destruction of the culture and the economic and defense space, as well as the rupture of human relations, are unacceptable to me. [end Gorbachev]

M. Gorbachev's full interview was published in the last issue of the weekly PANORAMA (Milan).

Emblem Removed From Palace of Congresses

OW0602173592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1610 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] This Thursday [6 February] the state emblem of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was removed from the Kremlin Palace of Congresses.

'Secret Ties' With UK Labor Party Denied

OW0502172992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1536 GMT 5 Feb 92

[By Mikhail Mayorov, Igor Porshnev, and "other" from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Mr Lev Parshin, head of the Second European department of the Russian foreign ministry, has flatly denied reports that the Kremlin has maintained some "secret ties" with the British Labor. With regard to a Sunday Times publication taken up by the Moscow press, he said to DP [Diplomatic Panorama] the meetings at Moscow's embassy in London represented "normal official contacts" indispensable for any embassy anywhere". [quotation marks as received]

According to Mr Parshin who spent seven years at the Soviet embassy in London, similar contacts have been maintained with all parties, with "representatives of the ruling Conservative party meeting Soviet officials at least as often as those of the Labor".

Meetings with Labor have provided an opportunity for exchanging views on a whole range of problems, including those of nuclear disarmament. The Soviet side explained Soviet initiatives on the subject and Labor representatives articulated their own nuclear disarmament and defense views which differed from those of the Conservatives. "There is nothing unusual or sensational about it", Mr Parshin said, the more so because the Labor's counterparts were holding talks on behalf of the Soviet leadership of that time.

He described the revelation of sensitive current foreign policy documents as "a glaring violation of the practice accepted in all civilized countries". The authors of the Sunday Times report claim they have received records of conversations of Soviet diplomats with Labor representatives from archives of the CPSU Central Committee.

Brain Drain Threatens Field of Biothechnology

OW0602142492 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1900 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Video report by S. Frolov from Moscow and interview with N. Voytenok, director of Institute of Scientific Research of Experimental Haematology and Biotechnology; from the "Utro" program]

[Text] A decision has been adopted on abolishing the Moscow Institute of Haematology and Biotechnology. Our correspondent visited the institute.

[Begin recording] [Voytenok] What are the prospects for this science, and what can it contribute to medicine today?

First, it is genetic diagnostics. Today's data indicates that there is such a thing as a genetic disposition toward cancer, and it can be verified on the basis of DNA analysis. All hereditary diseases can be diagnosed with absolute certainty before a child's birth. It is a new way of thinking, a new attitude towards the study of human diseases and the vital activity of the organism.

Today we are left with no financing, no magazines, no chemicals, and no equipment. The social problems are enormous.

All in all, I would estimate the brain drain in our field to be 70 or 80 percent nationwide. The other side is greatly interested in specialists from our field. In the U.S., genetic diagnostics and molecular [physiology?] fall under the slogan of "let us reduce the risk of cancer to zero." It demands a huge number of specialists. There is the possibility of a catastrophically rapid drain of the remaining scientists, and then we will be left with a big problem since it will be very difficult to reconstruct it all.

[Frolov] Still, is there any way out of the situation? At least, do you see a way?

[Voytenok] I see a solution in the urgent creation of correct structures, that is, institutes should not be administrative scientific organizations but public organizations. As to other ways out of the situation—those of us who work in this promising field of medicine and biology, as well as the rest of the country, have a treasure within our grasp. On one side is poverty, on the other wealth. Our science is in great demand in the West, and we can undertake projects and scientific and technological developments which are simply very expensive. They are willing to give us the money at once.

[Frolov] What does the Lenin prize winner think about it? [video shows brief interview with Professor N. Grineva]

[Grineva] This is amazing, just amazing. Closing a field that insures the future of medicine. It is a Lysenko [Stalinist scientist responsible for the closing of many institutions during the purges] syndrome.

[Frolov] We can not choose a more peaceful past for our native science, but we can use our past to understand the meaning of true science and appreciate the achievements of those who deserve it. The future of our science is at stake. [end recording]

Supreme Soviet

Proceedings of 6 Feb Session Outlined

LD0602202992

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1830 GMT on 6 February carries a 24-minute edition of the "At the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Session" program featuring the recorded highlights of the 6 February Russian Federation Supreme Soviet session.

The session is chaired by Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. At 1830 GMT he is shown taking the chair. Deputy Chernakov asks for regular debates on the economy and makes a number of similar proposals. Khasbulatov says the possibility of this will be investigated.

Deputy Zakharov then talks from the rostrum about state pensions. He says that the second stage of pension reform is under way. The third stage starts in July. He says deputies have the relevant documents in front of them. Questions from the floor turn the discussion to entitlements for bus drivers and veterans. The deputies then adopt a presidential amendment on pensions for veterans. A state pensions law is also passed.

At 1840 GMT, Deputy Vladimir Lukin of the International Affairs Committee comes to the rostrum. He says that his committee and the legislation committee met to discuss the controversy over the status of the Crimea. There was an overwhelming view in the committees that the political aspect should be kept separate from the legal issue of whether the 1954 decision to give the Crimea to the Ukraine is lawful. The committee passed a decision recommending that parliament ask the committees to continue their work until 19 February and that it set up a commission to investigate the legality of the 1954 decision. Lukin says he did not want the deadline of 19 February, but this was the decision of the committee members. A vote taken and the proposals are accepted by deputies.

Lukin then says that the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) will meet on 14 February. President Yeltsin has expressed the view that strategic military forces should be under single CIS command. Khasbulatov then reads a parliamentary decision calling on the Russian Government to take all necessary measures to preserve a single Black Sea Fleet. This decision is passed.

Aleksandr Vladimirovich Kurkin is shown taking the rostrum at 1850 GMT to talk about the state pensions fund.

The program ends at 1854 GMT.

Black Sea Fleet Resolution Discussed

LD0602214492 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1945 GMT 6 Feb 92

[From the "Military News" section: "Russian Parliament Discusses Resolution on Black Sea Fleet"—POSTFACTUM headline]

[Text] Moscow—On February 6, the Russian parliamentarians discussed a draft resolution on the unity of the Black Sea Fleet. The draft says in particular:

Having examined the situation, that has developed around the Black Sea Fleet as a result of unilateral actions by the Ukrainian leadership, the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation resolves:

1. The government of the Russian Federation will take all appropriate measures to preserve the Black Sea Fleet defending, in the Mediterranean area, the interests of all CIS member states as a single whole, in line with the provisions of the treaty on the formation of the CIS of December 8, 1991.

2. To praise the efforts of Admiral Kasatonov, commander in chief of the Black Sea Fleet, and the entire composition of the fleet's military council for their consistent actions directed towards the preservation of the fleet's unity and defence capacity. The parliamentarians divided on item 2 of the resolution. At the suggestion of Deputy Sergey Baburin and others, item 2 was put to a vote. Baburin said in particular:

At present, politics has the characteristic of personification, for example, when a critical situation developed in the military garrison stationed in the town of Poti and the navy servicemen's lives were in danger, including the lives of the Russian people, Leonid Kravchuk gave orders that no assistance should be given because Ukraine was not at war with Georgia. Igor Kasatonov, on the contrary, assumed full responsibility and displayed courage, and people were saved. Item 2 of the resolution was rejected.

Resolution To Support Yeltsin

OW0602203992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1916 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian parliament passed a resolution today in favor of preserving the Black Sea Fleet as a single whole, for this meets the provisions of the Treaty on the Formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States of December 8, 1991. The resolution stresses that the fleet is to protect the interests of all Commonwealth member-states and demands that the Russian government take all the necessary measures to keep the fleet intact.

The chairman of the international affairs committee of the Russian parliament, Vladimir Lukin, said in parliament that the aim of the resolution was to give support to Russian President Boris Yeltsin's position on the issue at the forthcoming meeting of Commonwealth heads of state in Minsk.

The same day the parliament decided to form a commission to investigate the legitimacy of the decisions taken by the Supreme Soviets of Russia, Ukraine and the USSR on April 24, 1954, on the transfer of the Crimea to Ukraine. The commission will include members of parliament and Russian Foreign Ministry officials.

The commission is expected to present its conclusions to the parliament by February 19 but will not, according to what Mr. Lukin said, deal with the Crimea's present status. "It has been decided to leave aside the political

issue of the present status of the Crimea and concentrate on the purely legal aspect of the 1954 decisions," he said.

Crimea's Transfer to Ukraine To Be Reviewed

PM0602114392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Feb 92 First Edition p 1

[Resolution of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet "On the Decisions of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Dated 19 February 1954 and of the USSR Supreme Soviet Dated 26 April 1954 To Remove the Crimean Oblast From the RSFSR," signed by R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, and dated Moscow, Russian House of Soviets, 23 January 1992]

[Text] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet resolves:

1. That the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Ties and the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee for Legislation, jointly with the Russian Federation Ministry for Foreign Affairs, should review the question of the constitutionality of the decisions made in 1954 to transfer the Crimean Oblast from the RSFSR to the Ukrainian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] and submit their conclusions to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet by 6 February 1992.

2. To propose that the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet also review the question of the constitutionality of the decisions made in 1954 to transfer the Crimean Oblast from the RSFSR to the Ukrainian SSR.

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet

[Dated] Moscow, Russian House of Soviets, 23 January 1992

Commission To Study Issue Formed

LD0602192792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1620 GMT 6 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Supreme Soviet has instructed its permanent committees to continue studying the issue connected with the decision by the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium on 19 February 1954 and by the USSR Supreme Soviet on 26 April 1954 on removing the Crimean Oblast from the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic.

At today's joint meeting by the chambers of the Russian parliament, deputies listened to a report by Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations. He noted that the issue of removing the Crimean oblast from Russia needs additional research.

The parliament made a decision to set up a commission of people's deputies, with the participation of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to study all the circumstances connected with the legal grounds for the decisions made in 1954.

Crimea, Black Sea Fleet Position 'Treacherous'

LD0602222192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1945 GMT 6 Feb 92

[From the "Military News" section: "Baburin Comments on the Destiny of the Crimea"—POSTFACTUM headline]

[Text] Moscow—Sergey Baburin, member of the Russian parliamentary committee on legislation, believes that the Russian leadership has adopted a treacherous position on the issue of the Crimea and the Black Sea Fleet. Addressing a joint session of the two parliamentary houses on February 6, devoted to defence issues, Sergey Baburin said: After the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation on January 23, 1992, appealed to the Ukrainian parliament to recognize the Black Sea Fleet as an integral whole, and after the Russian parliament decided to examine the constitutionality of the 1954 act transferring the Crimean region from the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation, nothing has been done and no resolution has been adopted.

According to Baburin, Russia's leadership is ready to make concessions to Kravchuk, as can be seen in particular, from a statement by the Rukh leader Ivan Drach that he allegedly received assurances of this at the highest level. The position of the Russian president on this issue is unequivocal. According to Baburin, Boris Yeltsin announced that he is ready to lease from Ukraine part of the port of Sevastopol, and this will be quite enough for the CIS strategic forces.

Resolution on Appeal to Ukrainian Counterpart

PM0602113992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Feb 92 First Edition p 1

[Resolution of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet "On the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's Appeal to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet 'On Progress in Implementing the Agreement on Creating the Commonwealth of Independent States,'" signed by R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, and dated Moscow, Russian House of Soviets, 23 January 1992]

[Text] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet resolves:

to adopt the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's appeal to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet "On Progress in Implementing the Agreement on Creating the Commonwealth of Independent States" (attached).

[Signed] R.I Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet

[Dated] Moscow, Russian House of Soviets, 23 January 1992

Decision on Registration of Public Associations

LD0602180192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1519 GMT 6 Feb 92

["Decision of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (RSFSR) Supreme Soviet on the registration of public associations in the RSFSR and registration dues"—TASS headline]

[Text] [No dateline as received]—Prior to the adoption of RSFSR legislative acts on political parties, trade unions and other public associations, with the aim of regulating relations between state bodies and public organizations and of bringing the legal norms valid in the RSFSR into line with generally recognized international norms, the RSFSR Supreme Soviet decides:

1. To establish that USSR legislation on public associations (including legislation on political parties, trade unions, etc) is applied in the RSFSR to the extent that it does not run counter to the legislation of the RSFSR or to the generally recognized norms of international law.

2. To repeal the registration in the RSFSR of trade unions, their associations, branches and other trade union organizations, their charters and other statutory documents and the dues for registration which are levied from them. To effect the registration of enterprises and other enterpreneurial organizations of the trade unions, which have as their main aim the making of profits, in accordance with the legislation of the RSFSR.

To establish that trade unions, their associations, branches and other trade union organizations during the month following the day on which they come into being send the RSFSR Ministry of Justice or the appropriate organs of justice in the republics that are part of the RSFSR, the krays, oblasts, autonomous oblast, autonomous okrugs, or the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg, copies, certified by a notary, of their statute documents, the protocols of their constituent congresses (conferences, assemblies) as well as information as to where their leading bodies are located, the composition of their membership organizations and their bank account numbers.

To consider that trade unions, their associations, branches and other professional organizations, as well as their leading bodies, acquire the right of a legal person from the moment that their statute documents are endorsed at a constituent congress (conference, assembly).

3. The registration of the statute documents of political parties and other public associations (other than those mentioned in point 2 of this decision) and of their regional and local branches shall be by the appropriate organ of justice on the territory which their activity covers.

The registration of statute documents of political parties and other public associations whose activities cover the territory of more than one republic, oblast, kray or autonomous formation, within the RSFSR, shall be effected by the RSFSR Ministry of Justice.

4. For registration of statutory documents of public associations (apart from those indicated in point 2 of the present resolution) the registration fee should be levied in the following amounts:

a. All-Russian public associations, whose activity extends to the territory of the RSFSR or the majority (more than half) of the republics, krays and oblasts forming part of the RSFSR—5,000 rubles [R];

b. International public associations, whose activity extends to the territories of the RSFSR and one or more foreign states—R5,000;

c. Inter-republican public associations, whose activity extends to the territory of the RSFSR and the territories of republics not forming part of thr RSFSR—R4,000;

d. Inter-regional public associations, whose activity extends to the territories of less than half the republics, krays and oblasts forming part of the RSFSR—R2,000;

e. Regional and local public associations whose activity extends to the territories of the national-state and administrative- territorial formations—R500;

f. Regional and local branches, coming under public associations indicated in sub-points a-e, and operating on the basis of statutory documents—R300.

5. It is to be established that no registration fee will be levied on registration of statutory documents of public associations of servicemen's parents, the disabled, pensioners, veterans of labor and the armed forces, and also children's, youth, school, and student public associations.

6. It is to be established that for registration of amendments and addenda to the statutory documents of public associations, not involving change to their status, the registration fee is levied at a rate of 20 percent of the sum of the fee indicated in point 4 of the present resolution.

7. To establish that sums levied in accordance with the current decision on taxes are included in the RSFSR republican budget and budgets of republics within the RSFSR and local budgets according to the place of registration of statute documents.

8. To deem to have lost force the decision of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee and the Soviet of People's Commissars of the RSFSR of 10 July 1932 "On confirming the situation on voluntary societies and unions," and the decision of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium of 15 January 1991, number 473-1 "On procedure for registering statutes of political parties, trade unions and other public associations in the RSFSR."

9. To propose that the RSFSR president and the RSFSR Government bring their decisions in line with the present decision.

10. [To propose] that the RSFSR Supreme Soviet committee on the mass news media, ties with public organizations, mass movements of citizens and the study of public opinion and the RSFSR Supreme Soviet committee on legislation speed up the elaboration of and submission for the scrutiny of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet of draft laws on public associations, political parties and trade unions.

11. The present decision comes into force from the time it is published.

[signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, Chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet

Moscow, RSFSR House of Soviets

18 December 1991

Decision Increasing Pensions Adopted

LD0602234692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2100 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet has adopted a decision which will improve the lives of 34 million of our fellow citizens. The decision will primarily affect pensioners. Beginning 1 January 1992, those who have reached the age of 80 will receive a monthly addition to their pensions of 228 rubles [R]. Pensions will also be increased for participants in the Great Patriotic War: They will receive an increment of R171. [as heard] The adopted amendment was proposed by Russian President Yeltsin.

Deputy on 'Own Armed Forces' Proposal

OW0602160292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's parliament ought to define its stand on the issue of Russia's own armed forces before the CIS leaders gather for a summit in Minsk on February 14, Aleksey Tsarev, chairman of the subcommittee on the army of the parliament's committee on defence and security affairs, told IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent.

However, said A. Tsarev, the committee is not ready to take decisions on the range of issues and proposals advanced by the subcommittee. According to him, the essence of these proposals is that the parliament should send a statement to the highest legislative bodies of the CIS and Georgia, declaring that Russia will create its own armed forces.

According to A. Tsarev, the existence of armed forces not belonging to a concrete state is impossible. His subcommittee believes that Russia should take under its own jurisdiction the troops of the former USSR stationed on its soil and elsewhere. Under the circumstances, A. Tsarev stressed, the Russian Federation could pledge to use the forces under its jurisdiction in the interests of all CIS members.

Deputy on KGB Role in Money Transfers

LD0602122792 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] The external intelligence service of the Commonwealth of Independent States is playing a game of hide and seek with Russia's parliament and the prosecutor's office of the republic. Such is the conclusion made by a member of a parliamentary committee (?Aleksey Surkov). The committee is looking into the role played by the former KGB in transferring the money of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union abroad and starting an underground party economy.

One of the press services of the external intelligence said there are no materials on party money in its archives. Mr. (?Surkov) officially stated, however, that the investigation service does have information that at least 10 departments in the KGB were responsible for the financial affairs of the CPSU in different parts of the world.

Council Adopts Bill on Delivery of Goods

LD0602231792 Moscow TASS in English 1925 GMT 5 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 5 ITAR-TASS—The Russian parliament's Council of Nationalities today adopted at the first reading a bill "On the Delivery of Output and Goods for State Needs."

During a prolonged debate, deputies drew special attention to the fact that the need to adopt such a law arises from the parliament-endorsed programme of the republican government to stabilise the economy and transfer to market relations.

The programme envisages the cancellation of a state-placed order for the supply of output and centralised distribution. Under market economy conditions, the economic activities of enterprises will be based only on mutually beneficial interests and the development of entrepreneurship. Therefore the role of the state also changes cardinally under market relations.

The bill is to be elaborated with due regard for remarks and suggestions expressed during the discussion and will then be brought up for final discussion.

Further on 'Alternative Organs of Power'

PM0702102392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Feb 92 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Who Is Replacing Parliaments"]

[Text] The Council of Nationalities chamber began its session yesterday with "Other Business." The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Commission for National State Organization and Interethnic Relations distributed to deputies and the representatives of the mass media a statement adopted on the eve of the session. In particular, it states: "For the past few months Russian society has been disturbed about the decisions passed by congresses of ethnic social movements proclaiming new national-state formations and setting up alternative organs of power. For all their outward democracy, these actions do not reflect real social needs, have no basis in law, and often contravene the existing Russian Federation Constitution and the constitutions of republics within the Russian Federation. These steps, which are permitting the issuance of laws by nonparliamentary means, could exacerbate interethnic relations—which have already deteriorated of late—wreck radical economic reform, and increase the real threat to the Russian Federation's unity and integrity.

"One recent manifestation of such actions was provided by the speeches at the Tatar Congress, where the desire was voiced to set up a medzhlis as an alternative to the legally elected Tatar Supreme Soviet. Similar steps have been taken by national movements in Kabardino-Balkaria and Karachayevo-Cherkessia, and opinions have been agitated by events in Checheno-Ingushetia and the unstable political situation in Adygeia.

"Respecting each people's sovereignty, we Russian Federation people's deputies and commission members have no right to tell them how to build their own national house, but we do advocate that at this difficult and dramatic time for the state everyone should show the restraint, good sense, and wisdom inherent in our peoples in the search for better solutions. Under no circumstances should anticonstitutional steps be permitted whereby, in order to please destructive forces, national movements adopt state functions that are not incumbent on them and which weaken the legally elected power and violate the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation's republics..."

The draft law "On Private Detective and Guard Activity in the Russian Federation" was passed on first reading. This document was elaborated in fulfillment of the Russian Supreme Soviet's 18 April 1991 resolution "On the Procedure for Introducing an RSFSR Law on the Militia." The question of a legal basis for private detectives is currently becoming particularly topical, since demand for this kind of service is growing, as it is for the protection of all kinds of property, the maintenance of order when holding mass events, the safeguarding of the personal security of citizens engaging in enterprise, and so forth.

Signatures Collected for Extraordinary Congress

OW0702000392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1916 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Our correspondent reports that a group of democratic members of the Russian parliament started collecting signatures under a document demanding the convocation of an extraordinary congress of people's deputies. One of the deputies told our correspondent that, if such a congress did take place, some parliamentary groups would move that a new chairman be elected for the parliament. By the end of the day some 40 signatures had been collected. According to the law, an extraordinary congress cannot be held if fewer than 250 deputies demand this. The chairman of Russia's Constitutional Court has had a letter today from deputy Pyotr Filippov, who asks the court to examine the decree issued by the presidium of the Russian parliament on February 3 introducing price controls for certain kinds of commodities and allowing a budget deficit of up to 25 mln rubles.

Constitutionality of Decision Questioned

LD0602145192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] The joint session of the chambers of the Russian Supreme Soviet began in a dramatic way today after a 10-day parliamentary break. Deputies Petr Filippov and Sergey Yushenkov made a proposal to include on the agenda the question of the constitutionality of the decision by the Supreme Soviet's Presidium of 3 February 1992. They had in mind the joint resolution of representative and executive bodies of power on the social protection of the population and on putting in order the regulation of prices for certain types of products.

Although the parliament's chairman, Ruslan Khasbulatov, produced convincing arguments showing the opportune and constructive nature of this decision, the deputies went on the attack, as it is described, insisting on a vote. Parliament rejected their proposal on putting the issue on the agenda. But the supporters of a reexamination of the resolution have sent a statement to the Constitutional Court.

Regional Affairs

Tatar Democrats: Constitution 'Unacceptable'

OW0702021292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] The draft of a new Constitution of Tatarstan published for public debates is unacceptable as it does not specify the character of relations between Tatarstan and the Russian Federation, says a statement issued by the Council of the Movement for Democratic Reforms in Tatarstan. We can adopt a new Constitution only after a referendum that would decide the issue of Tatarstan's secession from the Russian Federation, said the Movement's leadership.

The Constitutional commission of the Movement for democratic reforms is planning to work out another draft Constitution of Tatarstan and submit it to the republic's parliament.

Tatar Leader: Assembly Lays No Claim to Power

OW0702001292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1610 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] The Chairman of the Tatar national assembly known as milli-mejlis Talgat Abdullin says the mejlis lays no claim to power in Tatarstan. In an interview with INTERFAX Talgat Abdullin said the mejlis only aimed to promote national culture and schooling and the use of the Tatar language, and work to improve the living standards in Tatarstan. He disagreed, however, with President Mintimer Shaimiyev of that republic who regarded the mejlis as a purely public organization.

Tatarstan Passes State, Communal Property Law

LD0602211192 Moscow TASS in English 1659 GMT 5 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Sorokin]

[Text] Kazan February 5 TASS—The Tatarstan parliament today passed a law on the transformation of state and communal property which may now be bought out by the work collective, auctioned or transformed into a joint-stock company.

"After six months since the adoption of a similar law by Russia, experience has revealed the flaws of the law. Therefore we have made substantial amendments," Rustam Khafizov, chairman of the Tatarstan parliament's Standing Commission, told ITAR-TASS.

Unlike Russia, the right to carry out privatisation has been granted to an appropriate parliamentary structure, and not to a committee under the government's authority.

Secondly, the Tatarstan law on privatisation limits the interests of the state. For example, it has been decided not to introduce preference shares which, as a rule, get into the hands of the state and guarantee high dividends under any circumstances. Joint stock companies shall be registered after the sale of 30-50 per cent of their shares.

The Tatarstan parliament session continues it work.

Tatar Majlis To Work With Supreme Soviet

PM0602163992 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 4 Feb 92 p 1

[B. Vishnevskiy report: "Only One Camera Was Smashed at the Kurultay"]

[Text] Tell me, what can be bad about the idea of holding a Betentatar Kurultay (All-Tatar Congress)? Nothing, of course. However, it so happened that people with a "special reputation" took it upon themselves to organize it. Unfortunately, Fauziya Bayramova, leader of the Ittifak National Independence Party; Zaki Zaynullin, chairman of the Mardzhani society; the "Sovereignty" Committee; and the Azatlyk Youth Organization are known in Tatarstan not so much for constructive actions as for scandalous statements.... A few days before the event, the "Sovereignty" Committee published a list of news media which would not be admitted to the kurultay. It included many Russian-language newspapers, radio, and television—both local and central.

Finally, Saturday morning arrived. A crowd gathered in front of the Kamal Theater. Around 1,000 delegates and guests of the congress had to pass through the bottleneck of the entrance door. The doormen with green armbands appeared to have certain problems. People were freezing, jostling, making caustic remarks to express their irritation. Suddenly "uninvited photographers" arrived. They too were in a confrontational mood. Someone lost their nerve. A camera came flying through the air....

It would be a great pity if this isolated incident was used to pin an "unambiguous label" on the kurultay. After all, everything else took place in an orderly fashion.

Fandas Safiullin, member of the TSSR [Tatar Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet Presidium, while noting the "unjustified extremism" of certain statements, said that the kurultay is, of course, necessary to implement tasks pertaining to cultural-national autonomy. He views the Milli Majlis (National Congress) which was elected at the kurultay as a complement rather than an alternative to the authorities in power.

Replying to questions on the same subject, Talgat Abdullin, the newly elected president of the Milli Majlis, stated that the Milli Majlis will work "hand in hand with the republic Supreme Soviet, and its laws will be voluntarily implemented by the people." T. Abdullin dissociated himself from the extremist statements and sought to reassure members of nonindigenous nations. The desire to retain with Russia relations "characteristic of two independent states bound by great friendship" was emphasized in particular....

North Ossetia Forms Republican Guard

LD0602232492 Moscow TASS in English 1802 GMT 5 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow February 5 TASS—North Ossetia is forming a republican guard, which will consist of three battalions with three companies in each and three separate task-force companies, including one horse-guard company.

The guard will employ a total of 2,000 people, Russian Interior Ministry troops told ITAR-TASS.

Currently its units hold 270 guards, 14 armoured personnel carriers and firearms.

Chechen President Creates Air Force

LD0602144492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] The sound of automatic fire has been replaced by the roar of jet fighters over Groznyy. Demonstration flights by the first Chechen air squadron are under way. It was created at the initiative of Chechen President Dzhakhar Dudayev. The pilots fly planes of Czech manufacture.

Moscow Oblast Assembly Discusses Food Prices

PM0602130592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Feb 92 p 1

[Report by Yuriy Makhrin: "But The Russian Government Washed Its Hands Of It"]

[Text] An oblast assembly has been formed by a decision of Moscow Oblast Administration Head A. Tyazhlov. Its members (members of the government, heads of city and rayon administrations, and regional administration advisers and representatives) meet every month to discuss very important problems of life. This grand council met again 30 January. Even before it started, arguments broke out behind the scenes about the draft government resolution "On Reforming the System of State Management of the Moscow Oblast Agro-Industrial Complex."

"Revival of a notorious administrative edict organ," city residents said. "Not at all," people with weather-beaten faces replied. "Moscow is behind us, and if the anarchy and chaos continue, there will be a terrible famine." They cited examples from other oblasts, where decollectivization is being implemented using the tried-and-tested methods of the 1930's: Breeding stock is distributed—the "farmers" immediately slaughter the animals, take them to market, and "grabatize" ["prikhvatizirovat"] equipment and buildings.... There is total disarray, because state management of agriculture is paralyzed in many places.

To all appearances, the city people heeded the agricultural experts' views: The draft resolution was approved. A Main Agriculture Administration was set up. Its task is to keep a grip on the situation, prevent a further slump in production, and implement reforms ensuring transition to the market. It was decided to keep all 14 agro-industrial combines for the transitional period until privatization is completed, and then turn them into joint-stock companies. Agro-industrial committees and agro-industrial associations in other rayons will be turned into rayon agricultural administrations under the local administration heads.

Throughout January, readers have been bombarding PRAVDA with the question: "Who is fixing the crazy prices for everything?" I thought it was the Russian Government. Then I came across a copy of a document signed by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Gaydar: "In view of the stream of inquiries about the procedure for regulating retail prices for wholemilk products and sugar... authorization is given to amend the maximum factor for retail price rises in the case of milk, kefir, and skimmed curds...." Authorization to whom, do you think? To the governments of republics, krays, and oblasts, and Moscow and St. Petersburg. No doubt about it, the Russian Government is wise: With a single flourish of the pen it bucked responsibility for the price explosion, for the fact that prices have gone mad. It shifted the blame onto someone else.

Now the government of the capital's oblast is consulting the grand assembly on what to do about prices. The following figures were cited. Milk production in Moscow Oblast fell by 30 percent in January, with the cost price soaring tenfold. Some 150 million rubles [R] have been paid out of the budget to subsidize milk. Prices cannot be held any longer.

Several ways of freeing them were examined. The majority was in favor of a special subsidy for milk for people on low incomes and wanted to raise the maximum price increase factor to six (from three). That means that a liter of milk, which currently costs R1.5-2, will cost R3-4.

But, dear reader, do not be in a hurry to generalize—it is nothing to do with the Russian Government. It has had the foresight to redirect your anger to the local authorities.

Ryazan Rally Protests Economic Policy

PM0602135192 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 4 Feb 92 p 1

[Report by A. Solovyev, member of the "Communist Revival" Movement Coordinating Council, under the rubric "Alarming Weekend"]

[Text] Ryazan—A large rally against the republic government's economic policy and the mass impoverishment of the working people has been held in Ryazan. Those who took part spoke in favor of the adoption of urgent measures to protect the working people's interests and a review of prices, demanding an end to their uncontrolled growth.

Distrust in the government and the local city administration was expressed at the rally.

'Flare-Up' Expected Over New Khakass Chairman

PM0602120892 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Aleksey Tarasov report: "Resigned After Three Days"]

[Text] The first chairman of the first Khakass parliament, V. Shavyrkin, was in that post for only three days. On 4 February, he announced his resignation. Two of his deputies also relinquished their powers.

The session elected as head of the republic's legislative authority Vladimir Shtygashev, a Russian Federation people's deputy who formerly held the posts of chairman of the oblast soviet and subsequently the republic soviet of people's deputies.

So after long debates behind closed doors, with the press being excluded, the former leader was summoned to go on leading. One of the main reasons is the sharp deterioration in interethnic relations in the republic in recent days. After heated speeches in parliament, a turbulent rally of the indigenous population was held in the rayon center of Askiz. Busloads of Khakass also arrived outside the walls of the parliament building in Abakan to protest against the Supreme Soviet's policy and the election of a person of nonindigenous nationality as head of the legislative authority.

After V. Shtygashev, a Khakass by nationality, had succeeded to the post of Supreme Soviet chairman, the pickets outside the House of Soviets applauded him. But now a flare-up of emotion can be expected from the non-Khakass. "We can control the actions of the indigenous population, but we cannot predict the reaction of Russians, for instance the Chernogorsk miners," A. Kostyakov, chairman of the "Tun" Association of the Khakass People, told your correspondent.

The situation in the republic's cities, which have a predominantly Russian population, is very tense today.

Popov Denies Role in Franco-Russian Venture

PM0602160192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 4 Feb 92 p 3

[N. Dolgopolov report: "Ours Did Not Take, the French Did Not Give"]

[Text] Corruption and bribery of people in official positions, fraudulent accounting, secret payments evading taxation, and unscrupulousness in the choice of means to achieve aims—these are just some of the accusations officially leveled at the French Sari Company, its president Pellerin, and his associate Shvarts [name as transliterated]. As reported earlier in KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, certain suspicion of involvement in illegal operations has fallen also on the founders of the "KNIT—Kaluzhskaya Zastava" joint venture which was set up by the Sari Company, the CBC firm, and a number of Moscow organizations.

On the eve of Moscow Mayor G. Popov's arrival in Paris, the French press burst into accusations not just against the French, but also against our people.

[Dolgopolov] Gavriil Kharitonovich, a few days ago PRAVDA carried an article about the Sari Company and the "KNIT—Kaluzhskaya" joint venture.

[Popov] I have no intention of answering any insinuations by the bolshevik press.

[Dolgopolov] But the French are writing about it too.

[Popov] In that case I will say that back in 1990 we signed a contract with the company which built the famous Paris district of La Defense. We are going to build our own version of this French "technopolis" in Moscow.

[Dolgopolov] What is your view of the accusations leveled at the company? Bribery is a serious matter.

[Popov] I have no desire to get involved in purely French problems.

[Dolgopolov] But you personally are also being accused. You are being named, together with Luzhkov, as a shareholder of the joint venture.

[Popov] That is a lie. At no time have we been shareholders.

[Dolgopolov] O.K. But it was you who signed the directive on the reconstruction of houses around Gagarin Square, and consequently also the eviction notices to Muscovites.

[Popov] Who, if not the leader of Moscow City Hall, is to sign such documents? [Popov ends]

To start with, Sari Vice President Monsieur Niz [name as transliterated], read out a paragraph from a statement which had been prepared in advance:

"Contrary to the allegations published in the press, neither Moscow Mayor Popov nor the head of Moscow Government Luzhkov are shareholders of the joint venture. The shareholders are the City of Moscow, the Union of Architects of the former USSR, and a number of public organizations on the Soviet side, and the Sari Company and the CBC firm on our side."

[Dolgopolov] However, your company's representative Shvarts is being accused of bribery. Incidentally, Monsieur Shvarts himself is in prison at the moment.

[Niz] First about Shvarts. He does not work for us. He was pursuing some other projects in Moscow, which had nothing to do with Sari. The rumors about bribery are entirely fictitious. [Niz ends]

Court proceedings have been instituted against the Sari Company in Paris, although the Moscow aspects of the company's activities appear to be of little concern to the French judiciary.

Amur Region Expands Contacts With PRC

OW0602121492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1054 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] Blagoveschensk has been the scene of talks between a high-level delegation from Heihe District (Heilongjiang Province, China) and Amur Region officials. The final documents state that the two sides intend to set up joint ventures to produce chemical fibers, cement, cigarettes, wines, jersey; process timber; and the like. The two sides also discussed the possibility of building a bridge across the River Amur. Japanese and Hong Kong companies displayed interest in this project. Participants in the talks considered the possibility of granting a special status to the cities of Blagoveschensk and Heihe.

International Affairs

Kravchuk Gives News Conference on German Visit

PM0602151392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Feb 92 First Edition p 7

[ITAR-TASS report: "Visit: Kravchuk Promised To Resettle Germans and Pay Debts"]

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Krachuk has expressed deep satisfaction at the results of his brief official visit to Germany. Addressing a final news conference for local and foreign journalists, he noted that during his stay in Bonn there had been a businesslike discussion with Federal President Richard von Weizsaecker and intensive talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Answering journalists' questions, he explained that Ukraine has never refused to pay its share of the former USSR's foreign debts. However, compared with December last year when the accords on the distribution of quotas among the former republics were agreed, the situation has radically changed. The Soviet Union has ceased to exist, as has, along with it, the Bank for Foreign Economic Activity, which was tasked with servicing the debt. That is why Ukraine has proposed holding an international conference on the problem of the former USSR's indebtedness. We also believe that the servicing of the debt should be handled not by the former Soviet banks, in which we have no confidence, but by a West European bank, the president said.

In the solution of the question of national minorities, Leonid Kravchuk noted, the Ukraine is guided by the norms of international law and the principles of the CSCE. Throughout the years of perestroyka there was not a single ethnic conflict in the republic. Practical steps have been taken to create conditions for the return to the Ukraine of the Germans forcibly deported at the beginning of World War II. A decree has been signed creating a special migrant aid fund which will be directed by a representative of the German minority.

The Ukrainian president gave an assurance that his country confirms its commitments on disarmament contained in the international treaties signed by the Soviet Union. By midyear, all tactical nuclear weapons will have been removed from the Ukraine and in a few years' time it will be a nuclear-free, neutral state. By about 1996 there will be only one-fourth of the current number of servicemen in Ukraine. By that time its army will not exceed 220,000 men in total.

Kravchuk on German Resettlement

LD0602194192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1715 GMT 6 Feb 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksandr Litvinov for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 6 Feb (TASS)—"The restoration of historical and simply human justice is the aim of the Ukraine's initiative on resettling in the republic's southern oblasts those Germans who were deported at the start of the WWII." This was stated today by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk at a news conference on the results of his official visits to Switzerland and the FRG.

Germany, he noted, showed great interest in this initiative. In the very near future a representative of the Federal chancellor will arrive in the Ukraine where he will familiarize himself with the situation on the spot and discuss specific proposals.

Answering a question on a possible negative reaction to this from the inhabitants of the Crimea and the Crimean Tatars, Leonid Kravchuk said that in his opinion the resettlement should not cause a worsening of the situation.

Kravchuk Expresses 'Satisfaction' on Visit

LD0602222592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2100 GMT 4 Feb 92

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Nikolay Kalintsev]

[Text] Bonn, 4 Feb (UKRINFORM-TASS)—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has expressed profound satisfaction at the results of his brief official visit to Germany. Speaking today at his concluding news conference for local and foreign journalists, Krachuk noted that during his time in Bonn there were businesslike conversations with Federal President Richard von Weiszecker, intensive talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and meetings and conversations with representatives of German political parties and business circles. We could sense the sincere interest of our partners in the talks on cooperation with Ukraine, noted the Ukrainian president. Kiev is also interested in establishing good-neighborly relations with Germany and the other states of the region, and is prepared to create the political, economic, and other prerequisites for such relations. The Ukraine's favorable geopolitical situation enables it to make an important contribution to the cause of peace, stability, and cooperation on the continent, stressed Leonid Kravchuk.

Replying to journalists' questions, he explained that the Ukraine has never refused to take part in the shared discharging of the former USSR's external debt. In comparison with December of last year, when accords were reached concerning the distribution of quotas among the former republics, the situation has changed radically. The Soviet Union has ceased to exist, as has Vneshekonombank, which was entrusted with the task of servicing the debts. The Ukraine, therefore, proposes the holding of an international conference devoted to the problem of the former USSR's indebtedness. We also consider that the servicing of the debt should be undertaken not by the former Soviet banks, which we do not trust, but by one of the West European banks, the president said. The Ukrainian Government has issued an appropriate statement on the subject and has sent the

text to all the international finance and credit institutions. During the meeting, it was also forwarded to FRG Finance Minister Theodor Waigel.

In tackling the issue of ethnic minorities, Leonid Kravchuk commented, the Ukraine is guided by the norms of international law and the principles of the CSCE. There has not been a single conflict on ethnic grounds in the republic in all the years of perestroyka. The Ukraine's great achievement is that it has managed to attain independence without one [words indistinct] victim. The situation in the country remains stable, despite attempts by some politicians to destabilize it. Practical steps have been taken to create conditions for the return to the Ukraine of the Germans forcibly deported when WWII began. A decree has been signed establishing a special fund to help resettlers, which will be run by a representative of the German minority. All programs are being coordinated with the local authorities. No protests from the Ukrainian population have been registered so far. Naturally, implementation will require considerable resources. The Ukraine is prepared to put the planned projects into practice, taking account the available construction capacity and financial possibilities. The federal chancellor promised to send Horst Waffenschmidt, the representative for [words indistinct], who will be able to see for themselves the Ukrainian Government's firm intention to restore historical and simple human justice.

The president of the Ukraine assured that his country supports the obligations on disarmament stemming from the international treaties signed by the Soviet Union. At present [remainder of item incomplete is as received].

Foreign Minister Meets With German Officials

LD0602141292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1716 GMT 4 Feb 92

[By UKRINFORM-ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Nikolay Kalintsev]

[Text] Bonn, 4 Feb (TASS)—Anatoliy Zlenko, the Ukrainian foreign minister, who is accompanying the Ukrainian president on his trip to the FRG, met in Bonn today with Horst Waffenschmidt, parliamentary state secretary at the Ministry of the Interior, who is responsieble in the government for problems of settlers. During the course of a conversation, the head of the Ukrainian foreign political department noted, problems of the resettlement of citizens of German nationality who were forcibly deported from the republic's territory during World War II were discussed. The Ukrainian president also signed a decree on the setting up of a special fund for aid to persons returning to their former place of domicile. The Ukrainian Government has allocated 5 million rubles for these purposes.

Specific questions on the redeployment of settlers are now being handled with the participation of the local authorities. Questions by the German side assisting in this process were also touched upon during the conversation. H. Waffenschmidt proposed that a special working group be set up on a bilateral basis to analyze all problems connected with the resettlement of citizens of German nationality in Ukraine, Anatoliy Zlenko stressed.

According to H. Waffenschmidt, talks on these problems will be held at the end of February or the beginning of March. The decree signed by the Ukrainian president, he noted in a conversation with journalists, creates the legal prerequisites for Germans to return to the Ukraine. We welcome the creation of a special fund for settlers. As far as help from the FRG is concerned, it will be allocated in the first instance to specific projects. It does not have to involve financial resources. Support can be expressed in the form of technical aid, consultations, training of specialists in various spheres, and the setting up of cultural centers. On the whole the German side is satisfied with the progress in this sphere taking into account that the first talks on this question took place last summer, the parliamentary state secretary noted.

Talks Held on Relations

LD0602142292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1745 GMT 4 Feb 92

[By UKRINFORM-ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko, Nikolay Kalintsev, and Viktor Chistyakov]

[Text] Bonn, 4 Feb (TASS)—The prospects for expanding bilateral interstate relations were at the center of the talks that took place here today between Anatoliy Zlenko, Ukrainian minister of foreign affairs, and Dieter Kastrup, state secretary of the FRG ministry of foreign affairs. At the talks the state secretary represented Hans-Dietrich Genscher who is on a visit to Poland.

A. Zlenko, it notes in the report by the FRG Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has expressed gratitude to the German leadership and to Minister Genscher personally who facilitated the international recognition of the Ukraine's independence, the establishment of diplomatic relations with it, the inclusion of the republic in the CSCE process. The Ukrainian minister notified them that his country's embassy will open in Bonn in the immediate future.

A. Kastrup proposed that his colleague send two members of the Ukrainian diplomatic service to Germany for training. This proposal was accepted with gratitude.

The head of the Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs briefed the German diplomat on the simplification of the rules of entry into the country's territory for FRG citizens. According to A. Zlenko, from 15 February this year the entry documents will be registered for them directly at the airports or border posts.

In conclusion, A. Zlenko expressed the interest of the Ukrainian Government in the development of bilateral relations with Germany on an all-embracing and reliable treaty and law-based foundation. According to him the question of signing a joint Ukrainian-German statement

or a bilateral treaty is now being discussed in the course of the talks in Kiev, it is noted in the document.

Visiting German Minister Discusses Debt

LD0602203392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1724 GMT 6 Feb 92

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Aleksey Petrunya]

[Text] Kiev, 6 Feb (UKRINFORM-TASS)—FRG Economics Minister Juergen Moellemann has called talks in the Ukraine's capital fruitful and mutually beneficial. A government delegation he headed was in Kiev today. It was received by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and Prime Minister Vitold Fokin. Questions were discussed about the development of political and economic relations, clearing the foreign debt of the former USSR, and giving German credits to the Ukraine. Accords were reached on organizing a council for economic cooperation between the Ukraine and Germany.

Mutual Understanding Memo Signed With Iran

LD0702113792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1037 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, 7 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—A memorandum on mutual understanding between Iran and the Ukraine concerning the development of bilateral economic relations was signed today in the Iranian capital. This document was the result of talks in Tehran with a Ukrainian delegation comprising leading figures from a number of the Ukraine's state and economic organizations in the sphere of transport and supply of fuels.

As reported by Iranian Television, an agreement has also been reached to the effect that, with the aim of expanding cooperation in the area of transport, a permanent Irano-Ukrainian commission on transport is being created. The meetings of the commission will take place annually in Tehran or Kiev.

Minister Begins Talks With U.S. Businessmen

LD0602165492 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Ukraine's State Minister on Property and Entrepreneurship Volodimir Lanovyy has begun talks with representatives of the U.S. business circle. The sides are considering details of two large projects—that is the opening of a Ukrainian stock exchange in Kiev this year and of the inter-Republican investment bank, Revival. The latter will be presented [as heard] by Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, and Azerbaijan on the part of the Commonwealth of Independent States and by a number of influential U.S. banks. Both projects are aimed at acceleration of the former Soviet Republics' entering the market economy.

U.S. Bankers Hold Talks With State Minister

LD0602231892 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2200 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] The leading bankers of New York held today a roundtable discussion with Ukraine's State Minister on Property and Entrepreneurship Volodymyr Lanovyy, who is on a visit. The participants in the talks exchanged views on the idea of creation in Kiev of an interregional investment bank Revival. Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, and Azerbaijan, members of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] are initiators of its foundation. These countries consider it necessary to involve U.S. financiers in the work of this bank due to their high professional reputation. The latter might join the initial bank fund with their shares and in due time get dividends. The Revival Bank is envisaged as a structure for helping the former Soviet Republics enter the market economy as soon as possible.

U.S., Netherlands Firms Invest in Project

LD0602164192 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Over $1 billion will be jointly invested in Ukraine's economy by two well-known Western firms—the American AMP and the Dutch (?RTT Telecom). This project, to be realized within several years, is directed at creation of a modern telephone network in the Republic.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Says Half of Nuclear Weapons Removed

OW0602204692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1916 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk says half of tactical nuclear warheads have been removed from Ukrainian territory. Addressing newsmen in Kiev this Thursday [6 January], the Ukrainian leader added the strategic weapons had not been taken off combat alert yet and, contrary to what President Yeltsin said, it was unknown what targets they targeted.

The Ukrainian President denied the existence of the Crimean and Black Sea Fleet problems. He said these issues were being played up to exert political pressure on his republic. In Kravchuk's view, the fleet's ships were so old, it made no sense arguing their ownership. The Black Sea Fleet could be split up, but it would do more sense reducing it.

Leonid Kravchuk reminded newsmen the great majority of people in the Crimea had said they wanted the Crimea to be part of Ukraine.

He hoped democracy had not exhausted its drive in the Commonwealth of Independent States and called on the Commonwealth republics to observe their joint commitments.

Further on News Conference

LD0602221192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Report by correspondent V. Lyaskalo; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The building of the republic's former Communist Party Central Committee is now the residence of the Ukrainian president. Leonid Makarovich Kravchuk gave his latest news conference here today.

The news conference began immediately with questions, and the first was: What, in the president's view, is the shortest route to a solution to the problem of the Crimea and Sevastopol'? Kravchuk replied: There is no problem as such; it is being created artificially. The whole matter was settled in 1954, in strict accordance with the laws and principles of that time. If they are to be revised from today's democratic standpoint, then even Roman law might be revised for being very undemocratic. Everything needs to be tackled at the negotiating table, not from a position of political pressure.

The Ukraine is placing great hopes on the 14 February meeting within the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States], Kravchuk said. The Commonwealth of Independent States is still a long way from exhausting its potential, the president stressed. In just two months, the countries' leaders have signed over 20 documents. It is important that we observe all the accords and act in a coordinated manner, he concluded.

The question of the invitation to Germans from Russia to come to the Ukraine was also raised. It is not an invitation, Kravchuk pointed out, but a restoration of justice. Before the war, around 400,000 Germans lived in southern Ukraine. Like other deported peoples, they have the right to return and even to form self-governing national districts.

Joint Statement Issued on Crimean Talks

MK0702115892 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Feb 92 p 1

[Vladimir Skachko report: "'Meeting's Participants Deem Necessary...' Kiev and Simferopol Legislators Seem To Have Started To Heed One Another"]

[Text] A Ukrainian Supreme Soviet delegation met with the Crimean ASSR [Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet Presidium 5 February in Crimea.

A joint statement was adopted on the results of the meeting. The document says in particular: "During the discussion the participants voiced understanding and support for the Crimean Supreme Soviet Presidium's position as set out in the statement of 30 January 1992, which rightly stresses that Crimea's future cannot be decided without its participation.

(...) The meeting's participants deem it necessary: to settle within a month the question of the demarcation of powers between the Crimean ASSR and the Ukraine; to acknowledge that all questions pertaining to use of property on Crimean territory and under its jurisdiction should be decided in coordination with and under the supervision of the Crimean ASSR Supreme Soviet; to embark on the practical study of matters pertaining to the creation of a free economic zone on Crimean territory; to speed up the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet and Government resolution of questions pertaining to the status of the city of Sevastopol; to speed up the political and legal resolution of the problems of the Black Sea Fleet; to form a joint permanent state organ to implement the program for the return of deported peoples (...)"

The statement was signed by Vladimir Grinev, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, and Nikolay Bagrov, chairman of the Crimean ASSR Supreme Soviet.

On the basis of the text of the joint statement we can assert that some mutual understanding was reached between the Ukrainian and Crimean supreme legislative organs. However, at this time signatures are being collected throughout Crimea in support of a referendum on the Crimea's seceding from the Ukraine and becoming an independent state within the Commonwealth of Independent States. Everyone—the Ukrainian and Crimean sides—refused to comment on how these actions square with the text of the statement.

TASS Kills Report

LD0602153892

[Editorial Report] Moscow TASS in English at 0644 GMT on 6 February transmits a report by UKRINFORM correspondent Lev Riabchikov datelined Simferopol, Crimea, which reports that a "Ukrainian parliamentary delegation headed by deputy parliament chairman Vladimir Grinev arrived here on Wednesday [5 February] and visited Crimean industrial enterprises.

"Addressing Crimean deputies, Grinev said the meeting was necessary and it ought to be held much earlier. He added that whether or not Ukraine became a democratic state would depend largely on how it tackled the Crimean issue.

"Along with mutual reproaches many constructive proposals were made at the meeting. A joint communique stating the necessity of Crimean participation in any negotiations on its fate was adopted.

"A decision was taken to divide authority between the Crimea and Ukraine, to speed up the solution of Black Sea Fleet problem, to create a free economic zone, and to form a joint body to return the deported peoples."

Moscow TASS in English at 0657 GMT on 6 February transmits a service message headlined "Annulment" and saying: "Please kill our item 12 (Ukrainian parliamentarians visit Crimea) from Simferopol."

People's Deputy Previews Crimean Talks

MK0702114392 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Feb 92 p 1

[Interview with Dmitriy Pavlychko, Ukrainian people's deputy, by Vladimir Kuyanin; date and place not specified: "More Rights For Crimea, But Within Ukraine"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] Ukrainian People's Deputy Dmitriy Pavlychko is a talented poet, who has abandoned the muse for politics. He was one of the founders of people's Rukh and the Ukrainian Democratic Party.

Before the parliamentary delegation left for Crimea he said the following when asked by NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent about the purpose of his mission:

[Pavlychko] We would like to secure for the Crimea republic as many rights as possible within the Ukraine. The Crimea is the Ukraine's territory on federative principles; it must not be conscious of any restrictions, but have all rights, create its own laws and live by them, effectively only surrendering to the Ukraine some of its powers and a certain proportion of its sovereignty. For instance, in our republic Ukrainian citizenship and defense should be unified, while everything else comes under Crimean jurisdiction.

[Kiyanin] President Leonid Kravchuk and parliamentary chairman Ivan Plyushch said the following in response to Russian parliamentarians' claims on the Crimea: Until there is an official application, there will be no official response. How do you regard the Russian parliament's statement? Could there be Ukrainian-Russian dialogue on this issue?

[Pavlychko] The question of Crimea must be approached with consideration for all the documents that we have signed with Russia. They all indicate that we regard existing borders as unshakeable and inviolate. We welcome Boris Yeltsin's support for this idea. Crimea's entry into the Ukraine was fully in line with the laws of the USSR, Ukraine, and Russia at the time, within the framework of the legal norms of the time. I very much hope that we will resolve the question of the Crimea with the Russians in a calm and peaceful manner.

Supreme Soviet Meets on Crimean Visit, Issues

LD0602133392 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] On 4 February the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine continued its session in Kiev. While discussing the agenda the deputies forwarded many proposals and [?amendments]. In particular it was decided that the question on ado,'ting the state emblem of Ukraine will be considered by the parliament members in the next few days.

Some of the deputies drew the attention of their colleagues to the Crimean issue. In particular deputy Mykola Porovskiy pointed out that the leadership of the Crimean autonomous republic is carrying out an anti-Ukrainian campaign.

Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine Volodymyr Hrynyov, together with a group of MPs [members of parliament], will leave for the Crimea tomorrow [5 February] to study the situation in the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Crimean autonomous republic so [?as to] prepare documents to be further submitted to the presidium of Ukraine's Supreme Soviet and the parliament session.

Afterwards the deputies got down to considering the draft law on collective agricultural enterprise. This document is geared towards ensuring complete independence of the above enterprises as subjects of economic activity. The law determines their rights and duties. The law guarantees inadmissibility of interference by the state in the economic activities or restrictions of their rights and interests on the part of the bodies of state power and management.

Members of the collective agricultural enterprises have equal rights with the workers of state enterprises as far as their minimum wage is concerned and also its [?indexation], conditions, and amounts of social insurance, pensions, protection of maternity, and childhood and so on.

After approving in its first reading the draft law on collective agricultural enterprise, the deputies got down to considering the draft law on civil defense in Ukraine. However, this draft law was declined for numerous shortcomings.

The Supreme Soviet has set up a relief fund called "State Independence of Ukraine" with the aim of creating possibilities for voluntary financing of the state programs by the citizens of Ukraine and foreigners and also juridical persons.

At the morning sitting the session participants introduced changes and amendments to a number of legislative acts of Ukraine in connection with the adoption of the laws of all-Ukrainian and local referendum. These laws envisage administrative and legal responsibility for the violation of the laws on the election of Ukraine's president and peoples' deputies and [?on holding referendum].

At the evening plenary sitting the session of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine did not manage to come to an agreement in relation to amendments to be introduced into the law on nationalization of the property of the Communist Party of Ukraine and the Soviet Communist Party. It was indicated that this document will be discussed later on after [?its updating] and corresponding consultations.

There was a lively discussion of the draft law on cooperative agencies. As a result it was submitted to the standing commissions and the cabinet of ministers to be further updated.

At the end of the evening sitting the session appealed to the residents of western Ukraine in connection with the aggravation of tensions between the Greek Catholics and the Orthodox believers. It was underlined that the cause of such tensions are imperfect law on the freedom of conscience and religious communities and inadequate behavior of the local authorities.

With this the plenary sitting of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine came to an end. Tomorrow [5 February] the parliament of Ukraine will resume its work.

Statement on Crimea Adopted

LD0602202792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1900 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Kiev, 6 Feb (UKRINFORM-TASS)—At a session of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet today a decision was examined on behalf of the Russian Federation parliament and its appeal to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet on the issue of the 1954 constitutional decision, whereby the Crimean Oblast ceased to be part of the Russian Federation and became part of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR]. The session adopted a statement on this matter. The statement says in particular that on 23 January 1992 the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet made a decision in which it instructed the committees of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet to examine the constitutionality of the 1954 decision on the handover, whereby the Crimean Oblast ceased to be part of the Russian Federation and became part of the Ukrainian SSR, and proposed to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet that it also examine this matter.

The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, the statement notes, believes that these actions may destabilize the sociopolitical situation in the Ukraine and Russia. The statement points out that the 23 January decision of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet is contrary to a number of treaties and documents signed in the past few years between Ukraine and Russia, and also to article 5 "of the agreement on the formation of the Community of Independent States," dated 8 December 1991, and to the Helsinki Final Act.

The history of our countries does not begin from 1954, and the search for truth in events of the past does not always lead to peace and harmony, the statement says. The Crimea has become part of Ukraine without the framework of the political-legal structures, procedures, and realities which existed at that time in the former USSR. The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, the statement adds, confirms its adherence to the Helsinki agreements, in particular to the principle of the inviolability of existing state borders, and rejects any territorial claims. Ukraine has no territorial claims against neighboring countries and hopes for a similar approach and support from all states of the community, especially from the Russian Federation, which has traditionally been friendly toward us, in ensuring order for the population of Crimea, which is an integral part of the Ukraine with the status of an autonomous republic with full rights.

Fokin on Coupons, New Currency

LD0602181292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Report from Kiev by correspondent V. Lyaskalo on the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet session on 6 February; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] A demonstration outside the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet building began to the strains of a Cossack march performed by professionals from the state orchestra. This meant that culture was on the agenda. The deputies listened to the demonstrators' representatives, but they still postponed to the end of the day consideration of a bill on culture.

The session began with a government report on the effectiveness of measures being taken to give the population social protection under the conditions of what is known as price aggression. Prime Minister Vitold Fokin assessed the first results of the circulation of reusable coupons positively, on the whole, stressing that the experience of their introduction objectively creates favorable conditions for bringing in a separate Ukrainian currency.

The prime minister's report concentrated on the problems of stabilizing agricultural production, especially providing the countryside with fuel during the forthcoming spring sowing period. For example, a centralized barter fund composed of Ukrainian products is being set up for this purpose. These products include not only the traditional sugar, but also traditional vodka. A whole detachment of Ukrainian representatives are setting off today for business talks to show their wares to oil producers with something to offer.

Further on New Currency

LD0602203592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 6 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast presented by Sergey Medvedev]

[Text] At today's sitting of the Ukrainian parliament, Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin stated that the Ukraine will have the first "hryvnya" [Ukrainian currency] by May. Fokin announced that in the near future, up to 50 percent of wages will be paid in coupons. The ruble share will be transferred into citizens' accounts in savings banks. [Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1429 GMT on 6 February carries a similar report which adds the following: "In late February or early March it is

envisaged to start selling manufactures and foods for coupons. This will include free price shops and public services. Only some commodities and transport fare will be paid for in rubles. The prime minister spoke against paying wages fully in coupons. 'If we do so the coupon will follow the fate of the ruble: it will lose its value', Fokin pointed out."]

Kiev Deputies Urge Leaving Commonwealth

LD0702052192 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Seventy Kiev Soviet deputies have appealed to the Ukrainian president and the Supreme Soviet over the savage anti-Ukrainian campaign in the Russian mass news media aimed at tearing the Crimea away from Ukraine and seizing the Black Sea Fleet.

Russia's action is qualified in the appeal as unfriendly and therefore the deputies think it expedient that the Ukraine leave the composition of the Commonwealth. Instead, they propose that all efforts should be directed at the Ukraine's joining the European Community as quickly as possible.

Government To Introduce Fuel Rationing

LD0702001692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2230 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] The Ukrainian Government has decided to introduce strict rationing of petroleum products in connection with the upcoming spring fieldwork. A decision by the Cabinet of Ministers on emergency measures adopted in this connection notes the extremely difficult fuel situation in Ukraine. One of the reasons given is the shortfall in supplies from Russia. The government is instructing the relevant departments and authorities in the localities to ensure the priority delivery of fuels and lubricants to agriculture. Supplies to other consumers, particularly the owners of private vehicles, has been reduced temporarily to a minimum.

Economic, Population Statistics Reported

LD0702000692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1534 GMT 6 Feb 92

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] Kiev—The deficit of Ukraine's budget in 1991 made up 39.5 billion roubles, with taking into account the debt to banks, the deficit amounts to 48.5 billion roubles. According to the Ukrainian Ministry of Statistics, gross national product dropped by ten per cent in 1991 as compared with 1990, national income decreased by eleven per cent, labor productivity by ten per cent. Monetary incomes of the population made up 205.6 billion roubles, an increase of 87 per cent on 1990. Spending for food in the families of factory and office workers went up 2.1 times, in families of collective farmers 1.8 times. Spending on the purchase of non-food goods went up, respectively, by 1.9 times and two times. Natural decrease of the number of the population began in Ukraine in 1991. The number of deaths surpassed the number of births by more than 20,000. By the beginning of 1992, Ukraine had the population of 52 million. As many as 1,122 enterprises and organizations of Ukraine participated in foreign economic activity in 1991. They exported 6.5 billion roubles worth of products, an increase of 557 million roubles on the value for 1990. They failed to supply to foreign partners 404.6 million roubles worth of goods.

Official Threatens To 'Switch Off' Moscow TV

PM0602162792 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 Feb 92 p 1

[Report by "A Certain" B. Karlov: "Press the Button and No More 'Ostankino'"]

[Text] People in the Ukraine are unhappy about television programs transmitted from Moscow. As a matter of fact, people in Moscow itself are not happy about them either, but they are struggling against the shortcomings with the help of a handful of television critics who have lost faith in the justice of their own struggle. People in the Ukraine have found a more radical method.

The KHARKOV-NOVOSTI agency reported that the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Media Commission Chairman Boyko said in a "Radio Liberty" interview that he might "press the button and switch off Moscow television."

But the guilty parties are being given a last chance. Precautionary measures are envisaged: First, Channel 1 will be moved to the frequency of the Ukrainian channel, and then to the frequency of the Russian channel, and only them will the button be pressed. After all, "can the Ukraine continue to tolerate two foreign channels broadcasting obvious lies about the republic?" That was the way the question was framed at Boyko's talks with the heads of the "Ostankino" Television Company.

I got back from the Ukraine last week. I was watching the television there. A grim business, I can tell you. I am not saying that Channel 1 or Russian Television are models of excellence. But why deprive people of the essential right to be able to switch from one bad channel to another? The illusion of freedom of choice is something extremely important. Moreover, whereas at the moment the viewer can share his displeasure more or less equally among three channels, once the button has been pressed the local purveyors of small screen programs will get all the flak.

Second, there will have to be some explanation why people have been switched to something approaching television hunger rations. "Obvious lies" is a bit feeble, of course. It will have to be reinforced with stuff about the "Ostankino" Television Company and Russian Television having pockets of pathetic renegades, who, in their impotent malice, are trying in vain to dream up deliberate falsehoods, generously financed by foreign

special services and subversive centers. But in so doing you could make a mockery of yourself rather than of the vicious detractors.

Third, what we are actually talking about is foreign channels, and anything foreign is highly attractive to one who has experience of living in the USSR. So people will use all their technical wiles to be able to take a secret look at TSN or "Vesti" or "Field of Miracles" from time to time.

But this can be combatted: For example, you organize the production of inexpensive television sets with just an on-off switch. No channel buttons. Incidentally, the sound, contrast, and picture sharpness could be centrally regulated.

It is not impossible that these sets could be an important item of export to other parts of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States]. And that means hard currency.

In short, there is much scope for imagination here. But will anyone be better for it? All this talk sounds like a kind of threat: "If your dog does not stop barking at nights, I won't give my cat any milk."

Crimean Call For Kasatonov Dismissal Denied

LD0602235292 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1200 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Today KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA [Crimean Truth] has published a comment on a report broadcast by Ukrainian Radio yesterday. It was reported on the air that a meeting of the Crimean branch of the Union of Ukrainian Officers, in which 120 people took part adopted a decision condemning the actions of Admiral Kasatonov, commander of the Black Sea Fleet. He was declared persons non grata. The meeting demanded that Ukainian President Kravchuk dimiss Admiral Kasatonov from the post of Fleet commander.

In response to the report, the newspaper says the following: A meeting in which 57 people took part was held on 2 February in the House of the Simferopol Garrison Officers. It discussed issues concerning the social protection of servicemen and nothing else. Everything else reported is mere disinformation. But there are reasons why the lie was broadcast on air. Some people obviously want those facts to be reality. After all, the armed forces is the only thing which still formally unites the peoples of the disintegrated Soviet Union. Now there are fervent attempts to pull them apart too, the Black Sea Fleet being at the center of the battle.

Officers Demand Servicemen Return to Force

OW0702001392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1610 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Union of Ukrainian Army Officers has demanded that a way be found to return ethnic Ukrainians on active duty in other republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States to their home republic.

The Union has addressed the Ukrainian people, Parliament and President with a proposal that a special foundation be set up to render financial and material aid to servicemen and their families. The Union says ethnic Ukrainians on active duty outside Ukraine do want to return to their home republic and swear allegiance to their own people. The Union says ethnic Ukrainians come under harassment in other republics and are generally hard put because their commanders delay their promotion and threaten them with forced resignation.

National Guard Commander Remarks on Role

LD0602124792 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Excerpts] [First Announcer] In general I must say that Ukrainian press is published irregularly now because of lack of paper and this is why a new edition called UKRAINIAN NATIONAL GUARD BULLETIN has become a real surprise.

This edition is for those who are interested in the development and formation of Ukrainian National Guard, problems of the people who have a responsible function of protection of a new sovereign democratic state. Two issues of the bulletin were published by today. In the first one, "Uniform for the Guard" attracted my attention. New uniform is being developed at a Kiev technological institute of light industry. [passage omitted]

In an interview included in the second issue of the bulletin, Ukrainian National Guard Commander Volodymyr Kukharets speaks about the tasks and main principles of formation of National Guard of Ukraine. Here is the interview in a shortened way.

The first question to Volodymyr Kukharets is the following: What is the National Guard of Ukraine? And here is the translation of the answer.

[Second announcer] The National Guard of Ukraine is a state armed body which aims to protect Ukraine's sovereignty, its territorial integrity as well as life and personal dignity of its citizens, their constitutional rights and freedoms. This activity of Ukraine's National Guard is guided only by the constitution of Ukraine, the law and decrees of the President of Ukraine. The Guard proceed from the principle of humanism and respect towards a person.

National Guard will also take part in liquidation of consequences of accidents, catastrophes and natural calamities. It will guard Ukrainian Embassies abroad, take part in the ceremonies, meetings of official representatives of foreign states, state holidays and festivities, said Volodymyr Kukharets.

[First announcer] And what is the strength of the Guard?

[Second announcer] The strength of the Guard is determined by the president. Today we have almost 10,000 servicemen. All of them have sworn allegiance to Ukraine.

[First announcer] And who may become a member of National Guard of Ukraine?

[Second announcer] Ukraine's National Guard is recruited from the citizens of Ukraine from 18 to 30 years of age. Recruitment is made according to contracts for three years and these contracts may be prolonged. Any citizen of Ukraine, irrespective of his nationality or confession, may become a member of the National Guard. Activity of any political party and movement in the Guard is forbidden. Members of the Guard cannot be members of a political party, organization or movement.

[First announcer] This was a shortened variant of an interview of Ukraine's National Guard commander Volodymyr Kukharets to a new periodical, UKRAINIAN NATIONAL GUARD BULLETIN.

Provisions of Military Legislation Outlined

PM0602145392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Feb 92 p 1

[Correspondent Colonel V. Kaushanskiy report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Service in Ukraine: From Private to General. But Still No Clarity Over Pensions"]

[Text] Kiev, 3 Feb—The Ukrainian parliament has adopted at their first reading draft laws concerning pensions for servicemen and internal affairs workers, the compulsory military service obligation, and military service. The pension draft law also does not overlook invalids, war participants, those who suffered because of the Chernobyl disaster, and families which have lost their breadwinners.

The deputies demanded that certain provisions of the documents be concretized. For example, what are the sources of finance? For whom is the future law designed: for those who have sworn loyalty to the people of the Ukraine or for all who are now in the ranks of the republic's Armed Forces? What about officers who wish to return home after serving in other republics? And how is Article 62 of the draft, which states that a pension in the Ukraine is not paid to servicemen and their families who have gone abroad to take up permanent residence, to be understood? For people's destinies lie behind every question.

Deputy N. Porovskiy made a proposal to include among the competitors for pension partisans who fought during the war years in the ranks of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army. If the idea is supported, it will be necessary not only to make an appropriate amendment to legislation but also to seek official proof confirming the right to financial assistance from the state.

At the session there was a dynamic discussion of the draft laws on compulsory military service obligation and military service. The mixed manning principle is proposed in the republic's armed forces, and compulsory service will total 18 months and alternative service 36 months. In addition, provision is made for a system of contracts, which officers, ensigns, and warrant officers and students and cadets of military educational institutions will conclude with the military department. In the opinion of the defense minister, all this will make it possible to switch in the future to forming a professional army. The draft law also defines the age qualification for junior, senior, and higher (from lieutenant colonels to major generals) officers. It will stand at 43, 45, and 50 years respectively. Service for ensigns, warrant officers, and servicewomen is limited to age 45. It cannot be ruled out that the list of military ranks, which was drawn up according to the normatives of the former Soviet Army, will be extended somewhat in time for the second reading. Deputy V. Yavorivskiy proposed, for example, introducing ranks which accord with the national spirit and historical traditions of the Ukrainian army (sotnik [lieutenant], for example). According to reports from the minister of defense, a law on the status of the strategic forces temporarily stationed on Ukrainian territory is now at the drafting stage.

Both drafts will presumably acquire the force of law at the end of this week.

Belarus

Preservation of Economic Relations Advocated

LD0602204392 Moscow TASS in English 1533 GMT 5 Feb 92

[By BELTA correspondent Larisa Lazar for TASS]

[Text] Minsk February 5 ITAR-TASS—The Parliamentary Commission for the Development of Industry, Power Generation, Transport, Communication and Information has proposed to the Belarus leaders Stanislav Shushkevich and Vyacheslav Kebich to discuss questions regarding immediate agreements on preservation of all economic relations in effect since 1991 in the earliest conference of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]. The people's deputies explain their request by the fact that the imbalance of the financial system increases and agreements among enterprises and organizations are not concluded on time within the CIS framework. The factories producing parts for other factories blatantly violate agreements on limiting the level of price rises with establishments and organizations of the CIS, and agreements on a unified economic space are ruined. As a result, many establishments of the republic either do not work to their full capacity or remain on the brink of stopping production.

Similarly, a proposal has been put before the government to adopt a resolution envisaging concluding agreements for cooperative supplies of industrial production at the 1991 level, introducing responsibility for deliberate avoiding conclusion of agreements for supplies, giving a right to heads of enterprises to export their production in exchange for accessories and materials.

'Catastrophe' in Republic Economy Expected

92UN0745A Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Feb 92 pp 1-2

[Article by PRAVDA correspondent Oleg Stepanenko under the rubric "Economic Barometer": "Catastrophe Expected in February"]

[Text] **Even in our troubled times the heart is wrung by such reports. The Minsk automobile plant, the giant of our native industry, has almost ground to a halt. Even before this, it was the main shops of the Mogilev automobile plant. Gomelkabel, Mogilev's Elektrodvigatel and elevator construction plants, and all enterprises of the republic that produce electrotechnical articles are not working. Dozens of other production enterprises are also on the verge of closing down. The output of vitally important products is dropping catastrophically. People who are without work have nothing to live on.**

The reason—there are no raw materials and supplies.

"After the so-called liberalization of prices, there was complete disorder between enterprises in complying with legal and normative acts. Extortion flourished... Contractual relations lost their legal force. Each republic of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] is establishing its own monopoly prices that exceed sensible limits by 10-60 and more times"—these are lines from a telegram sent to the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus by the directors of 20 Mogilev enterprises.

Specific facts are cited. The Belarusrezinotekhnika production association set a price of 262,000 rubles [R] per tonne of polyurethane—32 times higher than last year, and the Styrol association in the Ukrainian city of Gorlovka demands R128,000 rubles for a ton of polystyrene—64 times more than it was before January.

But even this, it turns out, is not the limit. I learned that electrical equipment for the MAZ [Minsk automobile plant vehicle], which comes from Vladimir, became 120 times more expensive!

The suppliers operate according to market laws: You do not want to buy, do not buy; we can also reduce production, but we will not reduce the price. The customers are brought to their knees not only by means of the ruble. The Yaroslavskiy motor vehicle plant demanded meat from the Minsk automobile builders in exchange for its engines, and then it set a new demand—$10 million. In turn, the Yaroslavskiy plant became dependent on Ukrainian suppliers.

The ambitions of politicians who pulled apart and are continuing to pull apart a great country and its economy are the firmest allies of market spontaneity. "The single economic space about which so much was said by the leaders of the Commonwealth is not working and does not have vital strength," the directors of the Mogilev plants say in the same telegram.

Alas! What kind of unity is there, if the sovereignties have reliably guarded the market diktat and orgy in the economy. Most of all at the expense of the interests of those who today are behind the cordon of their own declared republic sovereignty.

The Kirishnefteorgsintez production association refuses to conclude a contract for the delivery of liquid paraffins to the Novopolotsk protein vitamin concentrates plant. This will lead to its stoppage. The consumers of Russia will be short 75,000 [tonnes] of food protein. But, after all, even without this Russia is on the verge of starvation.

Enterprises of Russia have stopped delivering some raw materials to the Mogilev production association Khimvolokno. Production is on the verge of stopping. As a result, about 200 enterprises of Russia do not receive enough chemical fibers and threads, and the Kursk production association Khimvolokno will come to a stop, because of incomplete delivery by the Mogilev producers of semifinished goods, which is due to an insufficient supply of Russian raw materials.

"The impression is created that our radical reformers are absolutely divorced from real life, and that they do not

understand the complexity of economic interrelationships," A. Bunos, director of the Mogilev motor vehicle plant, told me bitterly.

To conclude contracts, plant representatives knocked on all of the doors of all the enterprises in Cherepovets, Lipetsk, Magnitogorsk, Novotroitsk, and other cities. Hundreds of workers of plants and factories and managers of various levels from Belarus are unsuccessfully storming the market and the sovereign bastions of Russian, Ukrainian, and various other "cordoned" producers. All to no avail. There they demand licenses for the export of products and set economic conditions that cannot be met.

An anxious appeal was sent to B. Yeltsin, L. Kravchuk, N. Nazarbayev, I. Karimov, and S. Shushkevich from the city of Zhogino by the managers of 50 enterprises who assembled there, who are engaged in open mining of gold, diamonds, metallurgical raw materials, and mineral fertilizers on the territory of CIS member states. Because of the fact that Belazu is not furnished with supplies for heavy dump trucks, more than a half thousand vehicles are standing at the plant, and, at the same time, open-cast mines ended up without equipment. The appeal reports that "enterprises of the metallurgical, coal, and the mining and chemical branches of industries of Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan are threatened by a breakdown in the supply of raw material resources."

After disrupting planning and releasing the spontaneous genie from the bottle, the captains of the economy and politics are undertaking spontaneous measures to chase him back into the bottle. A number of proposals have been prepared by the government of Belarus. One of these—a draft regulation on the delivery of products—was supposed to have been examined on 30 December at a meeting of the leaders of the governments of CIS member countries. There was not enough time. An agreement was concluded between Russia and Belarus that removes restrictions on the implementation of the acquisition and distribution of commodities. It was signed by B. Yeltsin and S. Shushkevich. It would seem that the problems have been removed—you do not need any kind of licenses, and there are no barriers. Alas! The Ministry of Resources of Belarus received another document: The procedure for formulating licenses for the export of products and commodities from the Russian Federation to independent CIS member states. Signed by S. Anisimov, minister of trade and material resources of Russia.

In truth, even in these attempts to block the path of the elements, the right hand does not know what the left hand is doing. But in the meantime, Belarus is languishing from raw materials starvation. Economic managers are warning us that a catastrophe is approaching.

Poll Respondents For Confidence Vote, Elections

LD0602203792 Moscow TASS in English 1507 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Minsk February 5 ITAR-TASS - BELTA-TASS—A total of 67 per cent of respondents in a recent poll taken by the sociological laboratory Ekumena in Belarus said they would take part in a referendum on the question of confidence in the republican parliament.

Some 57 per cent called for the earliest possible parliamentary elections in the republic. Sociologists believe public discontent with the present parliament can be explained by its inactivity in carrying out radical reforms to improve the republican economy.

Kravchenko Comments on Accession to CSCE

LD0602105692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1647 GMT 4 Feb 92

[By BELTA correspondent Tatyana Khryapina]

[Text] Minsk, 4 Feb (TASS)—"The republic's accession to the CSCE enables us to think with hope of the Belarussian people's destiny in the next decades and of their acquisition of their long-awaited political and economic freedom and a better fate," Belarus Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko told BELTA. He had attended the session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the CSCE member states held in Prague, which adopted a decision on 30 January on the accession of Belarus and all the other CIS republics to the CSCE.

"As we return to the family of European peoples," Petr Kravchenko commented, "we declare our commitment to democratic ideals, to respect for human rights and the rights of ethnic minorities, to the market model of economic management, and to a readiness to live in peace and friendship with all who sincerely profess these principles."

Petr Kravchenko believes that the gradual coming together of the member countries of the CIS and the EEC is an objective process and may be completed by approximately 2005. By that time, he said, Belarus and its capital will be ready to take on the functions of a "Brussels of the East" and, together with a number of Eastern European countries, to be a link between east and west.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Austria

LD0602034392 Moscow TASS in English 1458 GMT 5 Feb 92

[By BELTA correspondent Tatyana Khriyapina]

[Text] Minsk February 5 (TASS)—A protocol on establishing diplomatic relations between Belarus and Austria was signed here on Wednesday [5 February].

Austrian Foreign Ministry Political Affairs Department head Ernst Suharipa told reporters the two countries

would not have to start from scratch: cooperation between the two countries developed successfully for many years, the closest ties being between Belarus and the lower Austria.

Belarussian Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Senko described the talks as positive. Austria was the 14th country to sign such a document, he said, adding that about 70 countries recognised Belarussian independence.

Moldova

Deputies Demand New Government Formation

OW0602002292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1651 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a meeting February 5 deputies of the Moldovan parliament demanded that the president present a new composition of the government. According to law, he is supposed to do that within two months after his election. This time the deadline is February 8, however the president has not yet submitted his proposals to the parliament.

The deputies cited a lot of facts, mainly of economic character, showing the need to change the government. In their opinion, price liberalization in Moldova has caused chaos. Taxes imposed by the government have brought industrial enterprises on the verge of bankruptcy. The president will possibly present a new make-up of the government at a meeting of parliament February 6. Observers say radical changes in the government's composition are unlikely.

Dnestr Protocol Calls for Release of Prisoners

PM0602154992 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 6 Feb 92 p 1

[Article by S. Karkhanin: "Elemental Anger. Will Dnestr Region Become New Nagorno-Karabakh?"]

[Text] Unable to stand the taunts and torture, one of the 25 Dnestr guardsmen seized by Moldovan policemen during the clash in Dubossary has died in jail, while his comrades—plant workers from Tiraspol, Rybnitsa, and Bendery—still languish in Kishinev's torture chambers.

According to the Conciliation Commission's protocol signed by plenipotentiary representatives of Moldova and the Dnestr Republic with the mediation of Russian deputies, all prisoners on both sides must be released. The authorities of the Dnestr region have fulfilled their pledge, but reciprocal steps have not ensued: Moldova has continued to hold on to its prisoners for almost two months now.

...That bloody morning of 13 December, when 700 Moldovan policemen in the uniform of Soviet Army soldiers moved on a radio signal from Kishinev to attack Dubossary, has not been forgotten, for its memory lingers on in the fresh graves of three workers—a Russian, a Ukrainian, and a Moldovan—who defended the city weapons in hand. The building in Bendery which houses the city militia department bristles with machine guns: It is still held by a detachment which came "from outside." Still the problem of the prisoners is probably the most dangerously explosive one today. The inhabitants of the Dnestr region are indignant at the perfidy of the Moldovan leadership, and it is getting increasingly difficult to curb this elemental anger.

"This is why we intend to ask our Russian colleagues for help," I. Milman, deputy of the Dnestr Republic's Supreme Soviet, said. "Blood has already been shed three times in Dubossary over the past year. Must we remain idle, waiting for it to be shed again? It seems to me that we must not repeat the mistake of the government of the former USSR, which preferred to intervene in a conflict only after it had broken out. It cannot be ruled out that the Dnestr region will become a new Nagorno-Karabakh: Our people will never agree to join Romania as part of Moldova, but meanwhile the leaders of the Moldovan People's Front have chosen precisely this course and are pursuing it persistently."

As is known, no one has yet recognized the republic status of the Dnestr region, but a republic has been created by the will of the people, as confirmed by three referenda, and it belongs to the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] as part of Moldova. Of course, political ambitions have nothing to do with this. The status has been chosen exclusively in order to protect the rights of Russian-speaking inhabitants, who were threatened with "mild apartheid": There is more than enough proof of this in other parts of Moldova. It is characteristic that in the Dnestr region there is as yet no question of extreme measures like secession from Moldova, and the region's leaders have proposed a fundamentally new scheme—to form the Moldovan Federation out of the Dnestr and Gagauz Republics and out of Moldova proper, while keeping intact the territory of the former Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic. Such a state structure would enable the Dnestr region to remain in the CIS if Moldova joins up with Romania.

"So, to accuse us of separatism would mean a deliberate distortion of the facts," P. Zalozhkov, deputy of the Dnestr Republic Supreme Soviet and of the Moldovan Parliament, emphasized. "Although it must be remembered that our district was not a part of Russia only during the years of the fascist occupation... It is no coincidence that a detachment of Don and Kuban Cossacks is now stationed in Dubossary and Bendery to support us. Obviously, the threat of armed conflicts will remain until the question of Moldova's political structure has been resolved, and the conciliation commissions will have to operate permanently. The present one, incidentally, is already the fifth."

Yes, an escalation of tension in the region after the Karabakh model is probably possible. There are data

attesting that both sides are preparing to take hostages and, as long as Dnestr worker-guardsmen remain in custody, this spark could flare into a conflagration at any moment. Particularly as the facts of torture in Kishinev Jail have now been confirmed by attorneys, and a whole convoy of vehicles carrying Romanian-made small arms to Moldova was detained on the state border. It is easy to understand who will be the target for the Moldovan Army which is now being created and armed apace. Incidentally, there is information to indicate that, despite everything, the convoy's freight did reach its destination in the end...

"We look with hope toward Russia, because the majority of us are Russian," Zalozhkov continued. "Can the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet ratify the treaty with Moldova, when we have been left in trouble? Moreover, it is not hard to compare the facts. The Russian leadership signed an agreement with M. Snegur soon after the shooting of peaceful residents in Dubossary. A few months later, literally a few hours after a meeting between the leaders of Russia and Moldova, a new armed assault on Dubossary began... Did these events coincide by chance? I would not like this logic to be continued."

Before turning to Moscow for help, the Dnestr region's deputies asked their Kishinev colleagues to help in regaining freedom for the worker-guardsmen held prisoner. No reply was forthcoming. True, the newspapers did start alleging in a discordant chorus that the rights of Moldovans have been flouted in the Dnestr region, although, in order to refute this nonsense, you have only to remember that the vice president, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, the chief of the internal affairs administration, and even the national guard commander of the Dnestr Republic are Moldovans. And one more fact: Representatives of the Commission To Monitor the Helsinki Agreements, who visited Tiraspol, failed to detect a single case of human rights violations.

It has recently been learned that armed policemen in flak jackets burst into the cells where the Dnestr guardsmen are detained, and the prisoners were cruelly beaten yet again. Will the humiliation of people who rose to defend their motherland continue for much longer?

Snegur Creates Ministries, Appoints Ministers

AU0602183492 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1801 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 6/2/1992—Several decrees issued by President Mircea Snegur were made public today in Chisinau [Kishinev], regarding the set-up of new ministries and the appointment of new ministers.

The newly created Ministry of External Economic Relations is headed by Andrey Ilye Cheptine, the State Department for Military Affairs was converted into the Ministry of Defence and entrusted to former Minister of the Interior Ion Grigore Costas, while Deputy Prime Minister Ion Tampiza was discharged from this function and appointed minister of economy and finance, Gheorghe Petru Efros was designated deputy prime minister and Constantin Grigore Antoci, minister of the interior.

Muravschi Urges Approval of Foreign Debt Deal

LD0602161192 Moscow TASS in English 1426 GMT 6 Feb 92

[By unidentified MOLDOVAPRES-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Kishinev February 6 TASS—Moldova will give Russia its share in the national asset of the former Soviet Union if Moscow agrees to pay off Kishinev's share of the Soviet Union's foreign debt.

Speaking in parliament today, Moldovan Prime Minister Valeriu Muravschi urged deputies to approve this approach. He said Moldova was unable to pay back its share of the foreign debt presently.

This proposal drew mixed reaction from deputies. It was decided to examine this issue at a special meeting of parliament.

Legislative Session Views Reform, Economy

AU0602175992 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1542 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 6/2/1992—The session of the parliament of the Republic of Moldova discussed the problem of reforming the parliament, proposing the withdrawal of the mandates of the deputies that deserted the republic or that, for certain reasons, did not wish to participate in the session, MOLDOVAPRES reports. The speakers opined that that would allow for the endorsement of resolutions with a smaller number of votes and for speeding up of the parliament's activity.

Some deputies pointed to the need for changing the composition of the government, posing questions also to the president of the republic in that respect.

Perfect chaos has set in in the economy after the price liberalization, the parliamentarians opine. The taxes set in an authoritarian manner by the government, without consulting the parliament, took the industrial enterprises to the verge of bankruptcy. It was also mentioned that the executive interpreted in its own way the bills being passed, amended them, or, generally, it did not guide itself by the legislative acts in its activity.

Russian Talks Attempt To Solve Fuel Problem

LD0602160592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] A critical fuel situation has developed in Moldova. Motor transport enterprises are working unevenly and prices for gasoline have reached astronomic proportions. Although the republic has concluded accords on delivery of petrochemicals from Russia this year, it has

turned out that the Russian Federation has failed to include them into the quota. After Muravschi, Moldovan prime minister, and Gaydar, Russian deputy prime minister, held talks the problem was solved except for the issue of prices. From now on they will be contractual, something about 10,000-12,000 rubles per tonne of oil.

Government Recommends Banks Advance Credits

LD0602214892 Kishinev Radio Kishinev Network in Russian 0700 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] In connection with the deregulation of prices and tariffs on 1 January 1992 and the shortage of funds to pay the working people their advance of half the total of their new monthly salary, the Government of Moldova is recommending that the republic's commercial banks should advance resources and credits to enterprises and organizations in order to pay their workers and, where necessary, should extend the period in which they may pay back the interest owed on the loan until the enterprises ('become profitable).

Muravschi Meets U.S. Humanitarian Aid Chief

LD0602213492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1717 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Kishinev, 5 Feb (MOLDOVAPRES-TASS)—Moldova, which has embarked on radical economic reform, badly needs Western aid, Prime Minister Valeriu Muravschi declared at a meeting with Roger Winter, chairman of the U.S. Humanitarian Aid Commission, who is in Moldova at the invitation of the "Dacia" society for friendship with foreign countries.

According to R. Winter, the aim of his visit arises from the need to study the situation and the possibilities for the provision of aid to Moldova by humanitarian organizations in America.

V. Muravschi stressed that the republic now needs help from Western business circles. The government has embarked on the implementation of radical economic reform, and intends to pursue the policy firmly. However, quite a few problems are appearing on that path—specifically a shortage of currency and other means for providing people with essentials.

Security Council Supports UN Application

LD0702045292 Moscow TASS in English 0953 GMT 6 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Maslov]

[Text] United Nations February 6 (TASS)—The U.N. Security Council on Wednesday [5 February] decided to recommend that the General Assembly admit the republic of Moldova to the U.N. membership. On behalf of all members of the Council, its president for the month of February Thomas Pickering congratulated Moldova on this important event. He said the Security Council notes with great satisfaction Moldova's commitment to abide by the U.N. goals and principles.

On the same day, the Security Council referred to its committee for the admission of new members the request by the republic of Turkmenistan to join the United Nations. Earlier, the Council recommended that the General Assembly admit to the U.N. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Armenia and Tajikistan. The Russian Federation, Ukraine and Belarus are members of the international community.

The requests by all the seven former Soviet republics are expected to be met during the 46th U.N. General Assembly session which will resume its proceedings late in February.

Council of Europe Holds Meeting With Delegates

AU0602093792 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0916 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 6/2/1992—The Commission for Relations With the Council of Europe's Non-Members held a closed-door meeting with the parliamentary delegation of the Republic of Moldova led by Vasile Nedelciuc, chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission.

In a statement to the ROMPRES envoy, the Council of Europe's Commission Chairman David Atkinson said the hearing was part of the contacts initiated by the Parliamentary Assembly with the republics in the ex-USSR before a decision was made on whether to give them or not special guest status. The exchange of opinions covered particularly the guarantees for the observance of minority rights, Mr. Atkinson said.

Mr. Nedelciuc told ROMPRES that most of the questions concerned the current economic situation in his country, respect for minority rights and the ties between the Republic of Moldova and Romania, emphasising the constructive atmosphere that prevailed. He added that Mrs. Ingrid Willock (Norway) was appointed special reporter for the Republic of Moldova.

The Moldovan delegation were also received in a brief audience by Mme. Catherine Lalumiere, secretary-general of the Council of Europe. It was an opportunity for the delegation to outline the situation in their country and to apply to the Council of Europe for assistance in specific areas.

Snegur Receives Romanian Trade Delegation

AU0502204692 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1939 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 5/2/1992—The first economic accord between the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Romania and the Republic of Moldova was signed Wednesday, 5 February at Chisinau [Kishinev], by the presidents of the two chambers, Aurel Ghibutiu and Vasile Candravura, respectively.

The document makes provision for the promotion and development of commercial exchanges and direct cooperation between economic agents in the two states.

The delegation of the Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry was received by Moldova's President Mircea Snegur.

Kazakhstan

Bacteriological Weapons 'Still Being Tested'

LD0602203692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1604 GMT 6 Feb 92

[From the "Military News" section: "Firing Ground Might Be Put Out of Operation in Kazakhstan"]

[Text] Alma-Ata—The Supreme Soviet of Kazakhstan considered the firing ground on the Vozrozhdeniye Island inadmissible. A decree of the republican Supreme Soviet on urgent measures for basic improvements of the living standards in Priaralye (the Aral region) states that the operation of the firing ground should be investigated and the proposal of its closure should be submitted to the republican Supreme Soviet. The decree was adopted on January 18 and published by the republican mass media on February 5. The People's Deputy Mukhtar Shakhanov told the republican Supreme Soviet session that the bacteriological weapons were still being tested at the firing ground.

Further on Talks With Germany's Moellemann

Nazarbayev Seeks Broad Cooperation

AU0602134992 Duesseldorf HANDELSBLATT in German 6 Feb 92 p 9

["Nazarbayev Pleads for Broad Cooperation"]

[Text] Alma Ata, 5 February 1992—Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev wants to expand political and economic cooperation between his country and Germany. He will therefore soon follow an invitation by Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl and visit Germany. This is how Economics Minister Juergen Moellemann summed up the results of his two-hour talks with Nazarbayev.

The Kazakh president emphasized that his country will meet its obligations inherited from the USSR. This also includes taking over part of the old debts, including those toward German suppliers. Questions in this connection from German creditors were answered by Nazarbayev's industry minister, who promised that Kazakhstan would provide 1 million tonnes of crude oil in the short term and use the proceeds for paying back debts to German suppliers that are not covered by federal guarantees.

Nevertheless, Nazarbayev asked Moellemann to understand that first the extent to which supplies to Kazakhstan are responsible for such open accounts must be determined. Kazakh authorities are currently trying to obtain the relevant documents from the former Moscow headquarters.

According to Moellemann, Nazarbayev reacted with indignation at the fact that Russian President Yeltsin appears as the representative of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] and the sole representative of the Soviet successor states. This is why he, Nazarbayev, wants to visit President George Bush in Washington soon, to outline the Kazakh position. Apart from Russia and the Ukraine, Kazakhstan also has nuclear arms.

During his visit to Bonn, Nazarbayev also wants to arrange for Kazakhstan to take over German-Soviet agreements. Moellemann stated that in their meeting, Nazarbayev pledged to take over all obligations inherited from the former USSR. Prime Minister Tereshchenko assured Moellemann that Kazakhstan will respect the German-Soviet investment protection agreement, which will create the necessary security for German investors, as the federal economics minister said.

In their talks Nazarbayev expressed great interest in cooperation between his country and German enterprises in the areas of energy, foods, and technology. Moellemann noted that according to the Kazakh president, the transfer of Kazakh oil and gas through other republics to Western foreign countries has been guaranteed. Moreover, Nazarbayev suggested that regular flights between Frankfurt/Main and Alma-Ata be started.

Out of the same reason, President Nazarbayev also came out in favor of improving telecommunications between the two countries; in this connection German enterprises presented plans, among others under the project designation Romantis.

The representatives of German companies who accompanied the minister to Alma-Ata were also impressed by the expert knowledge of their Kazakh partner in the talks, who in the past, had to follow instructions from headquarters in Moscow. For the financing of investment in Kazakhstan, German enterprises want to rely on the processing of crude oil, natural gas, and non-ferrous metals from the central Asian republic and on the granting of new state credit guarantees.

Moellemann Welcomes Settlement Plans

OW0602004192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1908 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] German Economics Minister Juergen Moellemann emphasized that he "hailed" Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's proposal concerning the settlement of Russian Germans in Ukraine, said Moellemann to IF [INTERFAX] in Alma-Ata on Wednesday [5 February]. Moellemann said that "the issue would be discussed in greater detail" in talks with the Ukrainian president in Kiev (the German minister will leave Alma-Ata for Kiev). This decision would promote friendship between the two nations, said the economics minister.

Swiss Banks To Invest; Cyprus To Form Ties

LD0602220592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1610 GMT 5 Feb 92

[From the "External Economic Relations" section: "Swiss Banks Will Be Kazakhstan's Investors"]

[Text] Alma-Ata—The Kazakh president and a group of Swiss banks reached an agreement to invest in the republic's economy. President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan made this statement in an interview with the republican television on February 4 upon his return from the World Economic Forum in Davos. He said an agreement was also reached with major foreign law companies which will help the republic strike contracts with world companies, from which the republic will stand to gain.

In addition, in Davos Nazarbayev and President Georgius Vassiliou of the Republic of Cyprus expressed the intention to establish diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and Cyprus.

On the results of his trip, Nazarbayev said the approval of the policy pursued by Kazakhstan as an independent state filled him with pride.

Iran To Work Out Transportion Agreement

LD0602173792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Text] Continuing his visit to Kazakhstan, Mr. Va'ezi, Iran's deputy foreign affairs minister for European and American affairs, met and held talks with Kazakhstan's transport minister on 29 January. According to a report from the Central News Unit, Kazakhstan's transport minister referred to the status of Iran and called for the expansion of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of ground, naval, and air transportation.

The two sides will work out an agreement to cover all cooperation between Iran and Kazakhstan in the field of transportation. The document is to be signed during the visit of the Kazakh president to Iran, which is to be held in the near future.

Land, Resources Excluded From Privatization

LD0602221292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1610 GMT 5 Feb 92

[From the "Domestic Market" section: "Land Is Not Subject to Privatization in Kazakhstan"]

[Text] Alma-Ata—Land and natural resources, which are the exclusive property of the republic, are not subject to privatization. The repubican law of February 4 on the privatization of state-run agricultural enterprises' property stipulates that privatization will cover the fixed and working assets of the state agricultural enterprise, including cultural and social establishments, facilities of the production and social infrastructure, the housing stock, as well as other assets on the enterprise's balance sheet.

The property of state agricultural enterprises can be acquired by their workers' collectives, Kazakh citizens, and legal entities on the republic's territory, the property of which does not belong to the state.

The privatization of state agricultural enterprises is enacted in the form of purchasing the enterprise's leased property, purchasing the enterpise's property by members of the workers' collective, acquiring by citizens or legal entities set up by them, shares belonging to the state in joint-stock agricultural companies, selling the enterprise's assets by contest or at an auction, and transferring free the enterprise's assets to its employees.

As a result of privatization, state-run enterprises are transformed into collective and private enterprises, cooperatives, private farms, joint-stock companies and other non-state forms of economic management. The law was adopted by the seventh session of the republican Supreme Soviet on January 14 and goes into effect on February 1.

Kyrgyzstan

Party Seeks Signatures To Dissolve Parliament

OW0602011792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1908 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] Erkin Kyrgyzstan, a republican Kyrgyz party, began a signature-collective campaign, aiming to have a referendum held on the dissolution of republican parliament. Back last year the party leader Topchubek Turgunaliyev demanded an early dissolution of the republican parliament as it allegedly was at odds with the changed political situation in the republic.

The party suggests a smaller, standing, parliament, reducing the number of parliamentarians from 350 now to 100-120.

The republican Justice Ministry had authorized the party to collect signatures for two months. However, a referendum may be a costly undertaking, given the social and economic problems in the republic, said Turgunaliyev. The party hopes that the parliament will have it in it to go to the country of its own accord, said he.

Canadian Envoy Invites President To Visit

OW0702025092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [6 February] on behalf of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney the Canadian ambassador to

Russia M. Bell invited Kyrgyzstan's President Askar Akayev to come to Canada for an official visit.

The president's adviser Askar Sarygulov told IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent that A. Akayev will use his visit to discuss opportunities for bilateral cooperation in the first place.

Government Suspends Opium Cultivation

LD0602044192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] It has been decided not to revive the sowing of opium poppies in Kyrgyzstan for the time being. This was reported by the president's office. The land already prepared for cultivation of the narcotic plants will be planted with other crops. Opium for medicine was to be the basis for hard currency entering the republic's coffers. However, the complex crime situation in mountainous Kyrgyzstan does not permit guaranteed control of the poppy crops.

Militia Seizes Marijuana Truckload in Bishkek

PM0702101792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Feb 92 p 6

[Correspondent Yuriy Razgulyayev report under the "Incidents" rubric: "They Tightened the Noose. Surprising Fate of 'Catch' by Militia Cordon at Exit From Bishkek"]

[Text] Bishkek—The attention of the guardians of order was attracted by the seven brand new dump trucks loaded, as the saying goes, to the gunwales. They unloaded them with difficulty and discovered 15 tightly packed sacks of marijuana at the bottom of the body under the heavy metal freight. They tipped the scales at over 150 kg.

But the most interesting thing started next. Following a clue badly concealed by the drug dealers, detectives discovered links leading to the "Kyrgyzavtomash" Association. The totally unknown small enterprise had obtained the brand-new vehicles—for which prospective purchasers would even kill at the moment—without waiting and even... without payment.

It turns out that Chuysk Oblast Internal Affairs Administration had been following these vehicles for a long time, even before they were loaded with their dangerous freight. The militia monitored not only the transit of a large drugs consignment but also the entire activities of the ramified clan of speculators and intermediaries. And not in vain. A search carried out at illegal storehouses astonished even hard-bitten militia staffers: There were hundreds of bottles of vodka and cognac, quintals of tea and coffee, and boxes of canned stewed meat and condensed milk. And, of course, marijuana.

The operation's leader, Lieutenant Colonel S. Dzhamankulov, is playing his cards close to his chest for the moment. But the threads leading to major speculators, corrupt officials, and mercenary leaders that have already been revealed promise a sensational case of the times of the transition to the market.

Tajikistan

President Nabiyev Appeals for Unity, Concord

LD0702104392 Moscow TASS in English 1010 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By TAJIKTA-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe February 7 TASS—President Rakhman Nabiyev of Tajikistan has called on all political parties and movements to rally together and promote national concord. The appeal, published in the local press today, contains a comprehensive analysis of the economic and socio-political situation in the republic. According to Nabiyev, the situation is being aggravated by several objective reasons, including the rupturing of multifarious relations among the republics of the former Union, which developed over decades, unpreparedness of the republic's economy for market conditions, negative consequences caused by the unresolved problem of ownership.

"In these conditions," Nabiyev believes, "we need national unity and concord, consolidation of all the republic's sound political forces. Instead of this, leaders of the political opposition speculate on objective economic difficulties and incite the people to civil insubordination, termless strikes and other illegal actions."

"Such a position," the president believes, "is particularly dangerous now, on the eve of the anniversary of the February tragedy."

Nabiyev said that the "memory of the February 1990 events calls for reasonable, well thought-out actions, for calm comprehension of ways to develop the republic."

It is common knowledge that there were riots in the Tajik capital of Dushanbe on February 12, 13 and 14, 1990. They claimed the lives of six people. The disturbances were triggered by rumours that a large number of Armenian refugees were to arrive in the capital from Baku and that they would receive priority for housing.

Chairman Views Reorganized Communist Party

MK0602145092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Feb 92 p 3

[Interview with Shodi Shabdolov, Tajikistan Communist Party chairman, by Oleg Panfilov: "The Main Thing Is Not To Lose Our Social Base"]

[Text] [Panfilov] Shodi Dovlatovich, what in your view is the current membership of the Communist Party in Tajikistan?

[Shabdolov] Before the suspension of the Communist Party's activities, its membership was 125,000 people

(the population of Tajikistan is more than 5 million). As we recently conducted a re-registration, we will take stock in the near future. This will not be a pro forma exchange of membership cards; only those wishing to remain members will do so. Of course, many will leave in connection with the departyization of administrative organs. Others will for ideological reasons become members of other parties. Only those who take chances and share our sympathies will remain. For us the main thing is not to lose our social base—workers, peasants, and teachers.

[Panfilov] Don't you feel that retaining the party's name will become a cause of deepening confrontation with the opposition?

[Shabdolov] We are coming to terms with the reality of the times. Since there are other parties, we will have to take them into account. They are composed for the most part of quite intelligent people who are offering attractive ideas. We must find an opportunity to cooperate with them on those programs that do not contradict our ideas and carry on a dialogue at a high level of political culture on those issues on which we disagree. For example, as regards the Union: We believe the Union should be for coordinating interstate relations. Our opponents speak of an absolutely independent republic, but there are no such states in the world—everyone is depend on one another. To speak of an independent Tajikistan is to place one's faith in simpletons. A second problem is the creation of an Islamic state. Our party is the only party speaking openly about this.

[Panfilov] You are a republic people's deputy and know that more than 90 percent of parliament consists of Communist Party members....

[Shabdolov] I think that is an inflated percentage; they were members of the party but not communists. I judge this by their actions. How could communist deputies vote to suspend their own party's activities? They should have acted honorably, setting aside their powers as deputies and holding parliamentary elections on an even footing. But they quietly pushed their voting buttons and in so doing discredited themselves in the eyes of society.

[Panfilov] So do you consider the Tajikistan parliament to be communist?

[Shabdolov] No, I do not. My doubts were finally confirmed when they voted against proclaiming 7 November a holiday.

[Panfilov] Do you consider yourselves an opposition party?

[Shabdolov] We are a parliamentary-type party and are not in power. If some from the CPSU remained in the leadership structure, they cannot be called representatives of our party. They do not defend our interests. They did not consult us on the need for introducing price liberalization in Tajikistan, on limiting the activities of cooperatives, on introducing presidential rule. In this case the party reserves the right to its own opinion.

[Panfilov] How do you explain the fact that you have been given the opportunity to appear on television, while leaders of other parties have not?

[Shabdolov] No, we do not consider ourselves to be in a privileged position; indeed, not a single newspaper has risked publishing my report.

[Panfilov] Despite the Tajikistan Supreme Soviet decree on nationalizing the property of the Communist Party, you have managed to retain your property and money. Don't you think the people of the republic could accuse you of not carrying out parliament's decisions?

[Shabdolov] I am convinced that all of these documents were hastily adopted. Constitutional measures on nationalization do not extend to officially registered parties. One could in this way also take in hand trade unions or religious organizations. Where would the line be drawn? Our actions in retaining the resources of the Communist Party our dictated by legal acts of parliament.

Communists Deny Involvement in 1990 'Bloodshed'

LD0702053192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0720 GMT 5 Feb 92

[By TAJIKTA-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 5 February (TASS)—Tajik Communist leaders have stated their willingness for constructive dialogue with all political parties and movements in the name of civil peace and accord in the republic, says an address to compatriots from the Presidium of the Tajikistan Communist Party Central Committee.

Rejecting the "streams of lies and slander from individual representatives of the political opposition concerning the Communist Party's involvement in the bloodshed" during the days of February 1990 (there were interethnic disorders in the capital on 12-14 February), the leadership of the Central Committee has resolutely condemned those who, "for the sake of their own ambitions and the attainment of mercenary goals caused the death of people."

In this regard, the authors of the address demanded an accurate political and legal assessment of the tragic events of February from the republic's parliament. The document also stresses that the "tragedy of February should not become a cause for dividing people, because in our tense age any stand-off of the political forces may result in a catastrophe. Real sovereignty is possible only in conditions of political stability and the unification of efforts in carying out economic and social reforms."

In concluding the address, the Communist Party leadership called on communists and all working people of the republic to show restraint and not to give in to the provocative calls and slogans of those who are prepared to again reduce society to a state of enmity."

Opposition To Stop Anti-Russian Demonstrations

OW0602012092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1908 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] Tajikistan's opposition organizations, the Islamic and Democratic parties and the Rastokhez movement, have issued warnings to the effect that they will thwart any anti-Russian demonstrations on Memory Day (February 12), a day commemorating the mass demonstrations of 1990. Members of these organizations said at a press conference today that they did not know where the rumors about planned mass-scale attacks on the Russian-speaking population came from.

In 1990 thousands of young people demonstrated in Dushanbe against the center's diktat. There was some vandalism and bitter sentiments expressed against the non-Tajik population. Troops were brought into the city and a state of emergency imposed. Twenty-five people were killed. Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev issued a decree proclaiming February 12 Memory Day to commemorate the victims of the struggle against totalitarianism.

On February 12 the opposition is planning to hold a rally to demand that the government abolish the antimarket and antidemocratic decrees preventing, in its opinion, Tajikistan from becoming a democratic, law-based state.

Economic Agreement Signed With Tatarstan

LD0602063992 Moscow TASS in English 1500 GMT 4 Feb 92

[By TAJIKTA-TASS correspondent Valeriy Zhukov]

[Text] Dushanbe February 4 (TASS)—An intergovernmental agreement on commercial and economic cooperation was signed here today between Tajikistan and Tatarstan.

The sides came out in favour of promoting cooperation and keeping this year's mutual deliveries, including deliveries of consumer goods, at 70 per cent of the 1990 level in respect of volume and assortment. Commercial and economic deals may now be concluded directly by enterprises and husbandries irrespective of their subordination and forms of property. Plans are afoot to shortly set up commercial and economic representations in both republics.

Najibollah Troops Seek Refuge in South

PM0602151592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 4 Feb 92 p 1

[A. Bushev report: "Afghan Army Chooses Commonwealth of Independent States"]

[Text] A group crossing has been registered on the Tajik sector of the southern border of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]. The border violators turned out to be two groups sarbaz [Afghan word for soldiers]—armed fighters of Najibollah's army—22 people in all.

It has emerged that they were forced to seek refuge and protection in neighboring Tajikistan as a result of powerful strikes mounted by units of a certain Najimuddin, an opposition leader. There was nowhere else to retreat except to our country, the CIS. According to a report in the newspaper of the Central Asian Border District, Najimuddin, the leader of the irreconcilables, intends to extend his influence over the whole of the mountaineous area in question. The sarbaz forces in the area are very limited and they have neither the strength nor the resources to counter his moves.

Armenia

Yerevan Recognizes 6 Republics, Ready for Ties

LD0702122292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1120 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 7 Feb (TASS)—Armenia recognizes the state sovereignty and independence of Belarus, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan "in accordance with the decisions of the parliaments of those countries, adopted on democratic principles and expressing the cherished hopes of their peoples." This is said in a statement by Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan published here today.

Welcoming the proclamation of the independence of these countries, the statement notes, Armenia attaches important significance to the development of qualitatively new interstate mutual relations with them and expresses readiness to establish diplomatic relations.

In conclusion, the republic's president expresses the conviction that Armenia's cooperation with these states, based on respect for common human values, will be a reliable token for ensuring peace and security.

Defense Ministry Takes Control of Troops

LD0602184692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1604 GMT 6 Feb 92

[From the "Military News" section: "Armenian Defence Ministry Takes Troops Under Control"]

[Text] Yerevan—The Armenian Defence Ministry has sent observers to the Army units deployed on the territory of the republic. No order can be issued without being discussed with them. A spokesman for the Armenian Defence Ministry told PF [POSTFACTUM] that the observers are controlling the movement of troops around the republic and the performance of stand-by duty at Army units.

According to some officers, the attitude of the military to the appearance of representatives of the Armenian Defence Ministry in Army units is emphatically negative. Rumors are circulating in the military spheres about the impending nationalization of the Army property in Armenia, but the Armenian Defence Ministry does not confirm this information. Many officers express the desire to leave Armenia. For example, according to informed sources, 26 officers of one of the units of the Yerevan garrison put in an application last week, asking to transfer them to the reserve.

Azerbaijan

Army Intelligence Said To Plan Assassinations

LD0702092792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] In the second half of January and at the beginning of February, the assassination of the Azerbaijan president was being prepared. This was stated by Ayaz Mutalibov himself, speaking at a conference of heads of the opposition parties on 6 February. Etibar Mamedov, chairman of the National Independence Party of Azerbaijan, who attended the meeting, stated to an RIA correspondent that some time ago he also received information about terrorist acts being prepared against the most active figures in Azerbaijan's Popular Front, deputies of the republican parliament, and the republic's president. Mamedov asserts that, according to his information, the assassination is being prepared by the Central Intelligence Directorate of the Soviet Army's General Staff.

Baku Rally Demands Mutalibov's Resignation

NC0702064192 Paris AFP in English 0041 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Moscow, Feb 7 (AFP)—More fighting was reported in the Caucasus enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh on Thursday [6 February], as 100,000 Azerbaijanis demanded the resignation of their president for failing to stop "Armenian aggression." [passage omitted]

Mutalibov has been under pressure from nationalists for tougher military action in Nagorno-Karabakh, which Azerbaijanis consider part of their republic. The enclave has unilaterally declared itself independent.

The demonstrators gathered around the central square in Baku and called for the unification under a single command of Azerbaijan's Defense and Interior Ministry troops and detachments of local self-defense units. The protestors also called for a suspension of relations with Armenia. [passage omitted]

TASS Details Continued Fighting in NKAO

LD0602113892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1014 GMT 6 Feb 92

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Feb (TASS)—After a two-day lull, combat actions have been resumed on the borders of Azerbaijan's Agdam Rayon and Nagorno-Karabakh Askeran Rayon. The Nagorno-Karabakh Internal Affairs administration told ITAR-TASS via phone today that on 5 February, during an attack by units of the Azerbaijani Army on the Armenian village of Khramort, one Armenian was killed. The Azerbaijani losses are not known. This is now the fourth attack on Khramort in a week.

Another two villages in the rayon—Farrukh and Karaglakh—came under artillery fire on 5 February. On 6 February morning battles raged outside Farrukh, and in the course of the day Askeran Rayon center came under fire from various types of weapons. So far, there are no reports of casualties.

Stepanakert continues to come under fire. On 6 February a militia man was severely wounded by a shot from a sniper. Last night up to 35 missiles and artillery shells were fired at the town from the direction of Shusha. There was one resident wounded, and there was damage. Armenian self-defense forces have been trying to take out the firing positions.

Armenians Said To Use Missiles

OW0602161092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] The press service of Azerbaijan's president reports that on Wednesday [5 February] Armenian militants launched massive raids on Azerbaijani-populated villages in Nagorno-Karabakh. They attacked the villages of Malybeili and Imaret-Gervend in Shusha District which are of strategic importance for the defence of the city of Shusha populated by Azerbaijanis. The press service claims that Armenian militants presented an ultimatum to the villagers, demanding that they leave their homes, and threatening that otherwise the villages will be destroyed by missile fire.

According to Azerbaijan's security ministry, on Wednesday the Armenians used once again surface-to-surface missiles and rocket installations for dispersing hail clouds against Azerbaijani-populated villages.

Azerbaijan's Popular Front says that on Wednesday a number of villages in Azerbaijan's Fizuli District were shelled from the direction of Armenia. As a result 2 civilians were killed and 8 wounded.

The Armenian self-defence forces in Nagorno-Karabakh have categorically dismissed the allegations that they have missile installations. They warned that the Azerbaijani army is about to launch an offensive against Armenian-populated villages.

Clashes, Casualties, Desertions Noted

OW0602210192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1916 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text]

MUTALIBOV SAYS RESTORATION OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH'S AUTONOMY IS POSSIBLE ONLY AFTER WITHDRAWAL OF ARMENIAN FORCES

Azeri President Ayaz Mutalibov has stated that talks with the Armenian community of Nagorno-Karabakh would be possible only after Armenian armed units are withdrawn from the region and inviolability of Azerbaijan's border with Armenia is guaranteed. Mutalibov spoke at an all-republican conference on Karabakh in Baku.

He did not rule out the possibility that the question of the restoration of the Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous region might be raised at these talks. (Nagorno-Karabakh was stripped of the status of an autonomy by decision of the Azeri parliament's National Council at the end of last November.)

The president once again spoke against pulling [as received] foreign troops, both of the Commonwealth and the U.N, in Nagorno-Karabakh.

FIGHTING CONTINUES IN NAGORNO-KARABAKH

Fighting reportedly continues between Armenian and Azeri armed units in Nagorno-Karabakh.

According to the Azeri Interior Ministry press center, the city of Shusha populated by Azeris was shelled during last night and this morning. As a result, several people were wounded. Some houses were destroyed.

The Azeri Defense Ministry says Armenian helicopters are delivering more troops to the villages of the Khodzhalinsky (Askeransky) region of Nagorno-Karabakh. Thus, on February 5 seven helicopters brought about 150 armed people from Armenia. Helicopters also arrived earlier today.

The Azeri Defense Ministry believes Armenian armed units are preparing to launch a large-scale attack on Azeri villages of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Meanwhile, the Armenian operation headquarters' press service reports this afternoon Azeri forces attacked the Armenian village of Farukh in the Askeransky region.

According to preliminary reports, one Azeri armored personnel carrier was destroyed. There have been no casualties on the Armenian side. There have been yet no reports on casualties among Azeris.

Reports from Baku say on Wednesday [5 February] Armenian units and Soviet Army regiment No.81 stationed in Khankendy (Stepanakert) surrounded the Azeri village of Malibeyli. The Azeri defenders of the village took 10 soldiers-Slavs hostage. Meanwhile, in Azerbaijan attitude toward the army continues to worsen. A press service spokesman said some 60,000 Soviet Army servicemen are currently stationed in the

republic and maintained by it. This is the largest Soviet Army contingent in the Transcaucasian region, the press service contends.

514 AZERIS KILLED IN NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT

Over the past three years at least 514 Azeris were killed and 1318 wounded in Nagorno-Karabakh. This data was revealed at a meeting of the Azeri Prosecutor's Office Collegium February 5.

During the same period 2,559 clashes between Armenian and Azeri armed units were registered in Nagorno-Karabakh. Azeri villages were attacked by Armenians 318 times and fired at 138 times. A total of 1253 buildings have been destroyed.

It was said at the meeting that about 100 Armenian militants have been prosecuted, most of them are already serving terms. Some of them were sentenced to death penalty.

ANOTHER 23 PEOPLE DESERT FROM SOVIET ARMY REGIMENT IN STEPANAKERT

According to reports from the Azeri Defense Ministry press center, on February 6, 23 military servicemen, mostly Turkic-speaking, deserted from the 81st Commonwealth Armed Forces regiment stationed in Khankendy (Stepanakert). Earlier, 6 people deserted from the regiment. They are now in the Azeri Popular Front's headquarters in Baku.

Soldiers Urged To Fulfill CIS Military Duty

PM0602160792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Feb 92 p 1

[Report by correspondent Colonel A. Ladin under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Kazakh Republic Government Has Appealed to Kazakh Servicemen Serving on Territory of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]"]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 3 Feb—Lieutenant General S. Nurmagambetov, chairman of the State Committee for Defense, made this appeal on the government's behalf.

"We know," the appeal reads, "that military service is not easy and that new difficulties have arisen in it recently. Therefore, we appeal to you to fulfill conscientiously your military duty and the orders of commanders and chiefs. We hope that you will have sufficient courage and will to overcome all the burdens and privations of difficult military service.

"The peoples of Kazakhstan expect you to worthily fulfill your military duty."

The appeal emphasizes that the republic reliably defends the rights, honor, and personal dignity of Kazakh servicemen. Therefore all the problems that have arisen can and must be resolved only by legitimate means. All the conditions for this exist.

"We are convinced," it states in conclusion, "that, serving on the territories of all the Commonwealth states, you will everywhere sacredly fulfill your service obligations, will not discredit your honor, and will worthily continue the glorious traditions of the older generations of Kazakh servicemen."

Turkish Military Help Only Involves 'Training'

PM0602142592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Feb 92 p 3

[Untitled report from "own information" and ITAR-TASS roundup under the "Foreign Military News Panorama" rubric]

[Text] Cooperation between Turkey and Azerbaijan in the military sphere will be conducted only "at the level of military training." This was stated by Turkish National Defense Minister N. Ayaz. The details of this problem will be examined during the upcoming visit to Baku of Turkish Foreign Minister H. Cetin.

The defense minister made it clear that contacts between Turkey and Azerbaijan in the military sphere certainly do not envisage arms deliveries to the Azerbaijan Republic.

Georgia

National Congress Adopts Key Resolution

AU0602142292 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 22 Jan p 3

[Resolution adopted by the Georgian National Congress in Tbilisi on 20 January 1992]

[Text] **The Session of the Georgian National Congress** The 8th session of the Georgian National Congress was held on 18 and 20 January this year under the chairmanship of Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Mikhayl Kurdiyani [chairman of the Georgian Demographic Society].

The following questions figured on the agenda: an assessment of the political situation that has taken shape in Georgia and ways of emerging from the political crisis.

The main reports were delivered by Batoni Vazha Mtavrishvili [chairman of the Georgian Citizens' League], Ivliane Khaindrava, Tengiz Sharmanishvili [member of the Main Committee of the National Democratic Party], Guram Gogbaidze [chairman of the Ilia the Righteous Society], Giorgiy Sikharulidze [chairman of the People's Party], and Irakliy Tsereteli [chairman of the National Democratic Party].

Gia Zhorzholiani, Maqvala Chakhvashvili, Jumber Kopaliani, Stepane Kalaijishvili, Giorgi Khaindrava, Temur Pipia, Ruslan Mikaberidze, Irakli Batiashvili, Mamuka Jorbenadze, Zaza Sikharulidze, Tamaz Tsankashvili, Meri Markozia, and others took part in the debate.

The congress session adopted a resolution that was based on a draft presented by Batoni Vazha Mtavrishvili.
The press center of the Georgian National Congress.
Tbilisi, 20 January 1992.

Resolution of the Georgian National Congress

In view of the fact that, as a result of the elections held on 28 October 1990, the regime that came to power disregarded the legal and just basis for the restoration of the state independence of Georgia—the Georgian Constitution of 1921—and embarked upon the path of its violation (Articles 8, 10, 147, 148, 149) and hence became de jure and de facto the rightful heir to the illegal "Soviet Government" that was imposed upon Georgia through aggression, occupation, and annexation, and placed itself outside the law,

in view of the fact that the anticonstitutional, antihuman, politically ignorant regime that had failed [khelmots'aruli] in all spheres of state and public life came to its logical end on 2 January 1992—it reaped the fruits of the lawlessness and violence that it had sowed itself—presidential rule in Georgia was overthrown, the Supreme Council no longer functions, and the Constitution of 1978 of the so-called Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic that was formally modernized by the Georgian Supreme Council in 1991 was suspended, and also taking into account the fact that the so-called Soviet Union, which, through its local puppet government, opposed in every way the restoration of the constitutional system in Georgia, has ceased to exist, although the Georgian Constitution that was adopted by the constituent meeting on 21 February 1921 remains legally in force to this day (Article 10 of this Constitution) and there are no longer any reasons preventing its de facto renewal,

in view of the fact that the restoration of the regime that has been overthrown could possibly result in new victims, though it is impossible to turn back the pages of history,

the Georgian National Congress calls upon the Military Council and the Provisional Government to exercise constitutional executive power until the country's new legislative organ is elected.

In order to stabilize the political situation and restore constitutional order, the Provisional Government should implement the following measures:

1. It should restore the 1921 Constitution as a fundamental legislative document and begin to act on its basis.

2. On the basis of the Coordinating Council of Georgian parties and sociopolitical organizations, with the active participation of the National Congress, and with representation from national minorities, professional unions and unions of creative artists, public organizations, and other existing forces from the different regions of Georgia, [the Provisional Government] should facilitate the convocation of a national assembly in the near future that, in agreement with it, will order and guarantee the holding of Georgian parliamentary elections in the autumn of 1992 taking into account the fact that [the Provisional Government] will make itself accountable before parliament on 1 November of that year following which it must unconditionally dissolve itself and transfer power to the government appointed by parliament that, together with the renewal of the constitution and the election of parliament, will lay the foundation for the restoration of the recognition of Georgia's statehood by other countries.

3. It should ensure, before the parliamentary elections, the restoration of the status of Georgian citizenship for the country's population on the basis of the Law on Citizenship of 27 May 1921, without which it will be impossible to convene a national assembly that has political authority and, especially, elect the lawful parliament.

4. It should propose to Georgia's existing political organizations that their own programs and rules should be in accordance with the Georgian Constitution and only on this condition should parties be registered.

5. It should suspend all those laws that run counter to the Georgian Constitution.

6. Following recognition of the supremacy of the Georgian Constitution, the existing Government, as the lawful Government, should implement Georgia's domestic and foreign policy in its entirety until 1 November 1992.

It should explain to the supporters of the overthrown regime that, if they stop their destructive actions and fulfill the demands of the lawful Georgian Constitution, it will be possible for them also to participate in the parliamentary elections but if their sole justification for violent acts is the claim that the former Government was the lawful one, whereas it assumed power through anticonstitutional and pro-Soviet elections, their actions will not be viewed as constituting a civil war but as aggression on the part of political structures that are remnants of the Soviet Union.

The Georgian National Congress once again points out that, if the existing Government takes it upon itself to fulfill the demands of the Georgian Constitution of 1921, no vacuum will be created in [the sphere of] legislative power as this constitution clearly defines the legal powers of the Government and its accountability and responsibility before the country.

In the situation that has taken shape, this is the constitutional path of economic and political stabilization in Georgia.

The Georgian National Congress
Tbilisi, 20 January 1992.

New Authorities' Legitimacy Put in Perspective

MK0602115192 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 6 Feb 92 p 2

[Interview with Petr Chkheidze, Georgian permanent representative in Moscow, by correspondent Dmitriy Kukanov; place and date not given: "Dictators Don't Retire Themselves"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Our correspondent met Petr Chkheidze, Georgian permanent representative in Moscow.

[Kukanov] Mr. Permanent Representative, what can you say about the legitimacy of the new authorities; after all, from the legal viewpoint, their coming to power does not seem too irreproachable?

[Chkheidze] Naturally, everyone would like this to occur peacefully. But dictators do not retire themselves. That is why they are dictators. We believe that a people's uprising occurred in Tbilisi. Of course, you can argue about this, but you must not forget that the people are patient and that it ends at some point. After all, Gamsakhurdia had of late been totally unrestrained, not allowed oppositionists to utter a word in parliament, and demanded that the militia be called into the conference hall to arrest an awkward deputy there and then. In short, he created some kind of anarchy [bespredel]. Then when people say that he is the legally elected president, they somehow forget that Hitler also came to power quite legally. The German people then and ours quite recently made a tragic mistake that is very hard to rectify. Of course, it is hard, almost impossible to develop democracy using assault rifles, but sometimes there is no other way.

As for world public opinion, we are counting on understanding here. The fact that Georgia has been recognized by seven or eight countries since Gamsakhurdia was overthrown indicates that we should have no problems with that.

Gamsakhurdia Letter Blames Russia for Downfall

AU0602164792 Paris AFP in English 1606 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, Feb 6 (AFP) — Ousted Georgian leader Zviad Gamsakhurdia has blamed Russia for toppling his regime, in a handwritten letter sent to the AFP bureau here from the information ministry in Chechen-Ingushetia.

Contacted by telephone, the ministry refused to say where the ex-president was. Chechen-Ingushetia, bordering Georgia, was an autonomous republic within Russia but has unilaterally declared its independence.

Its leader, Dzhakar Dudayev, is a long-standing friend of the fugitive Georgian, who fled Tbilisi a month ago. Various sources have said that his family had found refuge in the Chechen capital Groznyy.

The seven-page letter, on headed presidential notepaper, said that without backing from the military in the Caucasus region—a reference to the ex-Soviet Armed Forces—his opponents would have had no weapons. Last year they had only three armoured vehicles, he wrote, but when they attacked parliament in December where he was holed up they had dozens of tanks and armoured vehicles.

The letter said Gamsakhurdia had a video proving the military joined in the attack. It accused Russia of organising his downfall because of Georgia's refusal to join the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

His absence from a CIS meeting at Alma-Ata on December 21 precipitated the attack on parliament the next day, he averred.

The opposition, now in power, had acknowledged that support from the ex-Soviet troops had been given on the orders of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the letter said. It alleged that Russia had offered the new regime in Tbilisi money if it brought Georgia into the CIS. The new rulers have said they will attend a CIS meeting on defence matters at the end of next week.

Gamsakhurdia complained that the lack of official Russian reaction to his ouster amounted to support for a "junta of criminals." He likened his removal to last August's brief putsch against Mikhail Gorbachev and asked Yeltsin to respond in the same way. Yeltsin forcefully opposed the August coup bid.

Further Reportage on Abkhazian Situation

Mkhedrioni Units To End Riots

OW0602161692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As a result of talks with Abkhazia (an autonomous republic within Georgia) a unit of Georgian government troops entered the city of Sukhumi. The battalion called "Mkhedrioni" has between 250 and 300 fighters and two armored vehicles.

No incidents were reported when the troops were entering the city, a spokesman for the Georgian Military council press center told IF [INTERFAX].

"Mkhedrioni" is expected to help put an end to the riots provoked by supporters of the ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia. The unit is also expected to help resume the movement of trains and air transport.

In the meantime the Abkhazian republic continues to form its own National Guard and militia forces.

It has been agreed that Georgian government troops are to leave Abkhazian territory in a week.

Political Settlement Appealed

LD0702012292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 6 Feb 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] New information has been received in the last few hours on today's movement of Georgian troops into Abkhazia. IMA-PRESS reports that the troops were brought in with the consent of the government of Abkhazia to put an end to the unrest provoked by the supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia. The number of government troops which have entered Sukhumi is between 250 and 300.

There have been no reports of use of military force. In Abkhazia rail traffic has ceased and the strike committee has been disbanded. But today we have a version, which is somewhat at odds with the version from Tbilisi.

[Correspondent F. Avidzba] According to media reports, the situation in Sukhumi is returning to normal. But from the information we have received at the press center of the service of the Supreme Soviet of Abkhazia, that is not quite correct. The tension continues.

Following an ultimatum from the commander of a unit of the armed forces of Georgia's provisional government, (Gia Karakayashvili), at a meeting with the leaders of the strike committee of Gamsakhurdia supporters held on the night of 5 February, the movement of trains has begun again on the Sukhumi-Sochi section of the line.

The session of the Supreme Soviet of Abkhazia promulgated a request by the constitutional authorities of the republic to the warring sides, appealing for a political settlement of the situation, since the use of force by the armed formations of the provisional government could lead to tragic consequences and—what is especially dangerous—draw the local population into the armed confrontation.

They also noted that the bringing of forces of the provisional government into Gali district [Galskiy Rayon] of Abkhazia has aroused mixed feelings among a considerable proportion of the original population which regards this as an infringement of Abkhazia's sovereignty. These people also consider the restoration of public order and the stabilization of the situation in the republic to be possible only on condition that the armed forces are withdrawn from Abkhazia's territory.

Meanwhile, the foreign media has transmitted the text of an appeal by President Gamsakhurdia to all parliaments and states and to the UN. [video shows Sukhumi port, streets, people complaining in street interviews, clip of Gamsakhurdia reading his appeal.]

Renaming Considered 'Unacceptable'

AU0702102992 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0500 GMT 7 Feb

[Text] The regular meeting of the first session of the Abkhaz Supreme Council resumed work in the evening of 5 February. The question under discussion concerned the renaming of the Abkhaz Autonomous Republic and the new Republic of Abkhazia.

The Abkhaz deputies and Vladislav Ardzinba [chairman of the Abkhaz Supreme Council] himself proposed that the former autonomous republic be called the Republic of Abkhazia.

It was pointed out that calling it the Republic [of Abkhazia], to all intents and purposes, signifies a change in the status of Abkhazia and that this is unacceptable to the Georgian population. The Georgian deputies requested that discussion of this question be deferred as it required additional work and consultation with experts. The Georgian deputies emphasized that they would in no way agree to the violation of the integrity of the territory of the Republic of Georgia.

It was stated that questions concerning Abkhazia's name, coat of arms, and flag would be discussed on 14 February at the next meeting of the session.

Peace in S. Ossetia 'Increasingly Realistic'

Commander on Situation

LD0602121892 Moscow TASS in English 1135 GMT 6 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, February 5 TASS—With every passing day the prospect of lasting peace in South Ossetia is becoming increasingly realistic. The lull is mostly due to a state of emergency imposed in the Republic, the region's military commander Oleg Teziyev believes.

The creation of Ossetian guards and the Interior Ministry by the Republic's Parliament has also had a stabilising effect, he said. Nevertheless, several large armed units of Georgian militants continue to destabilise the situation.

The Ossetians are not in confrontation with the Georgian people, according to the commander. "We are confronted by forces, mobilised by former Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia," he said. "In principle, Georgians and Ossetians will come to an agreement. Recently, the South Ossetian leadership, after consulting the Government of the North Ossetian Republic at a meeting in Tskhinvali, decided to hold talks with representatives of Georgia's Provisional Government."

Before the talks start, the Georgian side should end the military confrontation, lift the economic and transport blockade from Tskhinvali and provide guarantees that

100,000 refugees who have fled to North Ossetia would be allowed to return home, he said.

"We have information that a special commission has been set up by Georgia's Military Council for talks with the South Ossetian Government on ways to stabilise the situation in the region. However, it will not accept many of our conditions. Moreover, the new Georgian authorities are again saying that they will be holding a dialogue with the government of an autonomous region called Shida Kartli, rather than of South Ossetia," he said.

'Official Negotiations' To Begin

LD0602162992 Moscow TASS in English 1333 GMT 6 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz February 6 TASS—The South Ossetian Information Committee press centre described the situation as "controlled lull". No clashes or hostage taking was reported over the past day.

South Ossetian leaders took a decision to start official negotiations with the Georgian provisional government representatives. There were reports from Tbilisi that [a] special committee under the Georgian Military Council intended to hold talks with the Ossetian party. Nevertheless it accused the South Ossetian Government of intentionally avoiding to discuss the terms and place of the meeting.

The press centre paid much attention to Eduard Shevardnadze interview with Georgian TV where he supported South Ossetian autonomy but opposed its desire to unite with Russia, describing it as an attempt on Georgian territorial integrity.

Request Not To Withdraw Troops

LD0602212292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1755 GMT 6 Feb 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Tskhinvali—The government of South Ossetia addressed Boris Yeltsin and Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov with the request not to withdraw troops from the republican territory till the situation is fully stabilized.

The telegram sent to the president of the Russian Federation and the commander in chief of the joint CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Armed Forces reads in part: The news of the coming withdrawal of the Soviet troops deployed in South Ossetia seriously aggravated the situation in the region. The population in Tskhinvali and the regions panicked. A great number of people are preparing to leave the area. The desperate citizens might even picket the military units, which would lead to unpredictable consequences. We sincerely ask you to prevent a new tragedy...

According to the South Ossetia Information Committee, rallies were held in Tskhinvali on February 5 and 6 following the news of the planned withdrawal of a helicopter regiment from South Ossetia. The participants demanded that the regiment should stay in the area. The speakers emphasized that in case of emergency or a complete blockade, it is exactly that regiment that could render efficient help (evacuation of children and disabled, delivery of basic necessities). Apart from that, the helicopter regiment deployed at the southern approaches to the city was considered as a deterrent and gave courage to the city defenders.

The speakers also said that in case the troops are withdrawn, all the CIS servicemen from South Ossetia should be called back home, so that they could defend their houses and families and prevent further extermination of civilian citizens.

Poti 'Still Long Way' From 'Entirely Normal'

PM0602162992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Feb 92 p 3

[Report by Captain Second Rank V. Pasyakin under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Rallies and Demonstrations Are Followed by Shooting, and Shooting by Funerals. Then Everything Starts All Over"]

[Text] Poti—It is becoming calmer in Poti. Although, as was reported from the garrison, things are still a long way from being entirely normal. In Poti 4 February was a day of mourning. Z. Gamsakhurdia's supporters buried four people who died in the attack on the city by T. Kitovani's guards. Around 4,000 people filed past the unit headquarters. An even bigger convoy proceeded past the city center. A rally was held in this connection in Rustaveli Square.

The withdrawal of equipment and materiel and the evacuation of people from the "burning" garrison is continuing. Following the evacuation of women, children, and servicemen in the Divnyy oceangoing tug, another 70 people (including 14 children) were evacuated in the Vilyuye (a Fleet auxiliary ship) to Novorossiysk.

According to assertions by T. Kitovani's supporters, the situation in Poti is beginning to stabilize somewhat. Whereas before chaos reigned throughout the whole city and all its areas, now the number of criminals has fallen slightly, and they have quietened down and dispersed into small groups that have withdrawn partially to the woods and countryside, where they have become involved in brigandage and robbery, threatening to shoot people.

Sixty trainees from the Tbilisi Militia Academy have arrived in Poti. Local defense detachments have joined this stabilizing force. The local authorities are trying to

restore a normal working rhythm in the city's enterprises and institutions. But tension is not abating in the garrison because exchanges of fire are continuing. Thus, on the night of 4-5 February there was shooting in the city. There was also shooting near the unit headquarters. The seamen's watch section is permanently ready to repulse attacks.

Complexities of a political and ethnic nature are being added to the continuing unfavorable criminal situation. Three trainee seamen recently went absent without leave from their unit, obviously alarmed by the mass media and by all kinds of statements. Altogether five seamen are "on the run." The echo of Sevastopol is reaching as far as Poti.

Estonia

Quayle Visits Tallinn, Views Trade, Relations

LD0602141192 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1300 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Excerpts] The brief visit of U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle began at Tallinn Airport this morning when he, together with his wife Marilyn, watched how U.S. medical aid was being received at the airport. After that a meeting took place with Supreme Council Chairman Arnold Ruutel and Prime Minister Tiit Vahi in Kadriorg, where future U.S.-Estonian economic cooperation was discussed, including trade relations and restoration of the most favored nation status to Estonia. The presence of foreign troops on Estonian territory, human rights issues, and a whole string of other issues were also discussed.

The program continued on Toompea where Dan Quayle and Tiit Vahi signed an agreement between the U.S. Peace Corps and Estonia. According to this about 20 Peace Corps volunteers will be arriving in Estonia, with the task of introducing the American way of life, thinking, culture, and traditions here as well as teaching English, which should be rated particularly high bearing in mind future communications. [passage omitted]

After that journalists were given an opportunity to ask questions for 10 minutes. [passage omitted]

[Begin Quayle recording in English followed by Estonian translation] [passage omitted] I am here to help the people of the Baltic states. The United States has long stood by them, long supported their quest for independence. We have a long and enduring friendship. I am here to help. I am here to help the people of the Baltic states. [end recording]

A little after 1400 the U.S. Embassy was officially opened on Kentmanni Street in Tallinn. [passage omitted]

At this moment the U.S. Vice President's plane should be in the air and flying toward Riga where his visit will continue.

Announces Further U.S. Aid

LD0602185392 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1600 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] The United States is giving an additional $18 million of aid to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, three Baltic republics which gained independence from the Soviet Union last September. The plan was announced by the U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, who arrived in the Estonian capital Tallinn on Thursday [6 February].

Earlier, Washington promised the Baltic countries $32 million in technical assistance and another $36 million to purchase grain.

Speaking in Tallinn, the U.S. vice president welcomed the independence of the three Baltic states and said that America stood by their side.

Over the next two days the U.S. vice president will visit Latvia and Lithuania.

Date for Russian Military Meeting Not Set

OW0702013192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1437 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] An Estonian Foreign Ministry adviser, Ago Tiiman, has given an interview to BF [BALTFAX] in which he suggested that the earlier BF information on negotiations between military experts from CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] and the Baltic states to take place on February 10 would only involve Lithuania and Russia. "Last Sunday [2 February] just a preliminary meeting was held with the Russian delegation, not official negotiations, which was why we didn't decide on the date for the experts' meeting," he said.

The source of the problem is that the Estonian delegation at the talks with Russia was led by members of Edgar Savisaar's cabinet, which resigned on January 23.

Mr. Tiiman expressed the hope that the membership of the Estonian delegation would very soon be approved and that the Moscow negotiations would begin by the middle of next week.

"The fact that our experts won't meet Russian ones on February 10 doesn't mean that we've fallen behind our neighbours," Mr. Tiiman said. "The results will depend on how serious one's approach is."

Sweden Arranges Aid, Plans for King's Visit

OW0702003692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1437 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] The press secretary of the Estonian Government, Neeme Brus, has informed BF [BALTFAX] that Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi had a meeting with the Swedish ambassador to Estonia, Lars Grundberg, in Tallinn yesterday at which they discussed Estonia's economic and political problems as seen by the new Estonian Government. They also dealt with some technical matters relating to the forthcoming visit of the King of Sweden, Karl Gustav, to Estonia (the exact date of the King's arrival is still unknown—BF).

Mr. Grundberg said that the Swedish Government had allocated 15 mln [million] kronor to Estonia: 10 mln to buy medical goods and 5 mln to buy grain. He also passed to the new Estonian Prime Minister Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt's invitation to visit Sweden at the beginning of April.

Leaders, Komi Official View Bilateral Trade

OW0702004392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1830 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] The head of the Estonian parliament Arnold Ruutel and Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi have met in Tallinn with the leader of the republic of Komi Yuriy Spiridonov to discuss bilateral trade and economic cooperation. Estonia is interested in oil, and Komi would like to buy consumer's goods, food and the production of the timber-processing industry. Komi would also like to export its goods via ports in the Estonian Republic. The press service under the head of the Estonian parliament says the two republics agree obstacles, including high export tariffs imposed by the Russian Federation must be removed to promote bilateral trade.

New Russian Envoy Appointment Causes Debate

LD0602041892 Moscow TASS in English 1354 GMT 5 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn February 5 (TASS)—The appointment of Arthur Kuznetsov, as the Russian ambassador to Estonia, caused confusion in local diplomatic circles.

Kuznetsov permanently resides in Estonia and till recently has been Minister of Interethnic Relations in the government of Edgar Savisaar.

Kuznetsov resigned from his post last year because of disagreements with the Estonian official policy in relations with minorities.

The appointment of Kuznetsov may negatively tell on relations between the two states, as it was not agreed with the Estonian Foreign Ministry, according to Deputy Foreign Minister Rein Mullerson.

Besides, local mass media claims Kuznetsov is "too much integrated" into the Estonian political system to become ambassador. He was an active member of the Popular Front in the republic and an initiator of the democratic movement of Estonia.

Estonian Envoy Reacts

LD0602042592 Moscow TASS in English 1948 GMT 5 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandras Budris]

[Text] Moscow February 5 (TASS)—Estonian Ambassador to Russia Yuriy Kakhn called the appointment of Arthur Kusnetsov as head of the Russian diplomatic mission in Tallinn "a slight violation of the diplomatic protocol". Kakhn said the Russian Foreign Ministry asked for the agreement for the appointment of Kuznetsov on February 3, while the corresponding decree of the Russian president was published in the "RUSSIAN GAZETTE" on February 1, 1992.

According to the Estonian ambassador, there may be some difficulties with obtaining the agreement from the Estonian Foreign Ministry. The matter is that Kuznetsov was a member of the Estonian Government for some time. It is not easy to determine his citizenship as the law on citizenship in Estonia has not yet been brought into force. In accordance with the international practice, a foreign citizen can be appointed mainly an "honorary consul" but not a head of a diplomatic mission.

Today Kakhn had a meeting with Kuznetsov at the Estonian Embassy in Moscow. The two had "a friendly talk which was of a private nature".

Latvia

Quayle Arrives, Meets Gorbunovs, Godmanis

LD0602190792 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1600 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle is currently visiting the Supreme Council of Latvia. He arrived three hours ago on a visit to Latvia. In a brief speech at Riga Airport, he informed those present that it was a great pleasure for him to come to Latvia, especially as it has regained its freedom. He pointed out he had already met the prime ministers of the Baltic states in the United States.

Also arrived in Riga are two USAF transport aircraft with cargoes of humanitarian aid, which will be distributed to various Latvian hospitals.

Later, U.S. Vice President Quayle laid flowers at the Freedom Monument, and then, at the memorial site of the victims of last January, not far from Bastejkalns, he took part in the symbolic opening of the U.S. Embassy in Riga.

While visiting the Supreme Council, U.S. Vice President Quayle met Anatolijs Gorbunovs and Ivars Godmanis. A short while ago an agreement was signed on U.S. Peace Corps activity in Latvia.

U.S. Vice President Quayle is due to leave Latvia shortly.

Commonwealth Nations Urged To Withdraw Troops

OW0602164592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1437 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] The Latvian parliament made a statement urging parliaments and governments of the Commonwealth states to immediately withdraw from the Latvian territory servicemen called to military service in those countries.

The document says Latvia has recognized the state independence of all Commonwealth countries and recalled from their territories the soldiers who had been drafted in Latvia.

Godmanis To Visit Arab States for Oil Talks

OW0702015092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1437 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] Latvian Premier Ivars Godmanis plans to visit Arab countries for talks on possible oil deliveries, a Latvian newspaper "DIENA" reports.

In 1992 a state enterprise "Latviyas Nafta" (Latvian oil) failed to get any petrol from Russia. The lack of petrol may soon make stop all transport means in the country. [sentence as received]

Moscow Envoy Optimistic About New Posting

LD0602151592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1850 GMT 4 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandras Budris]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 4 Feb (TASS)—"I am proud to be appointed to the post of Latvian ambassador to Russia, which has been restored, Yanis Peters told ITAR-TASS following the ceremony. In his view, the post of head of the Latvian diplomatic mission in the Russian Federation "is the most important post of Latvian diplomacy abroad."

Speaking about relations between the two states, Yanis Peters admitted that there are a number of "unsettled issues." Nevertheless, he noted, they all can be settled. According to Yanis Peters, "one should not accentuate these problems artificially, in particular the decision adopted by the Latvian parliament on 22 January which deems illegal the annexation of part of Latvia by the Soviet Union."

Yanis Peters said that during his conversation with the president of Russia he felt "Boris Yeltsin's amicable attitude to Latvia and became convinced that Russian-Latvian relations have a good future." [passage omitted]

Ethnic Russians Organize To Claim Property

OW0602194992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1830 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] According to the Latvian daily DIENA, ethnic Russians who settled in Latvia before 1940 are organizing to defend their economic interests. They are going, among other things, to lay claim to property nationalized after Latvia joined the Soviet Union. Most Russians in Latvia have taken a skeptic approach toward the national parliament's legal moves to return nationalized property to former owners. They feel the relevant bills are ethnically biased and ought to be reconsidered. A man behind the moves to set up the new union, Vladimir Sorokin, says his organization has already brought together some 200,000 people. He points out, however, many Russians are reluctant to press for their property rights for fear of future repression.

Prosecutor Opposes OMON Leader Extradition

PM0602102692 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 1

[RIA report: "Latvian Prosecutor's Office Does Not Agree"]

[Text] Sergey Parfenov, former commander of the Riga OMON [special purpose militia detachment], will be returned to Russia in the near future.

An accord to that effect was reached during the recent visit to Latvia by a Russian delegation. The Latvian Prosecutor's Office is categorically opposed to Parfenov's extradition.

Lithuania

Quayle in Vilnius; To Meet Landsbergis

LD0702111392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1047 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kazis Utsila]

[Text] Vilnius, 7 Feb (TASS)—The aircraft carrying U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle and his wife arrived in Vilnius this afternoon.

The eminent guest took part in a ceremony handing over humanitarian aid at the airport. He then left for the Vilnius television tower to lay flowers at the site where peaceful people died on 13 January 1991 during the capture of the building by troops of the Soviet Army and the Interior Ministry.

From the television tower, Dan Quayle will set off for the Government Building, where he will meet with Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius. He will then meet Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis at the Lithuanian parliament building where Lithuanian-American documents will be signed. The vice president will then make a speech at Independence Square outside the Lithuanian parliament and take part in a ceremony opening the U.S. Embassy in Vilnius.

Landsbergis To Visit Germany 10 Feb

OW0702002792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1437 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Excerpt] On February 10 the chairman of the Lithuanian parliament, Vytautas Landsbergis, is leaving for Germany, where he has been invited by the president of the Bundestag, Rita Susmuth. As was reported at a news briefing in Vilnius today (February 6), Mr. Landsbergis is going to meet Ms. Susmuth the same day. On February 13 he will meet Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. [passage omitted]

Landsbergis: Gorbachev Has 'Key Testimony'

OW0702004692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1830 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] The head of the Lithuanian parliament Vytautas Landsbergis feels Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev can supply the legal authorities with key testimony on the case of last January developments in Vilnius. Speaking Wednesday [6 February] before the Lithuanian parliament, Landsbergis pointed out, however, he was uncertain whether the former president would be willing to testify in that case. 14 persons were killed in an Army attack on the Vilnius TV Center on Jan 13, 1991.

An investigating team under the Lithuanian Prosecutor's Office has said in Moscow it would like to question Mikhail Gorbachev. No reply has yet come from the ex-president.

Prime Minister Receives British Ambassador

LD0202145892 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 2000 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Text] Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius today received British Ambassador in Lithuania Michael John Peart. The ambassador expressed his satisfaction that during the recent visit to London by Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis, the only issue creating doubts in the relations of both countries—the return of gold to Lithuania—was solved.

One of my tasks, he said, is to evaluate what help is needed to restore Lithuania's economy, to acquire that help, and to use it correctly.

Gediminas Vagnorius thanked the ambassador and his government for the attention and support to Lithuania. He expressed the opinion that Lithuania's economic situation is difficult; therefore, financial and other aid to Lithuania and other Baltic states could be rendered not only by the 24 most industrialized countries, as has been envisaged, but also by the G-7, which includes Great Britain.

The prime minister presented the ambassador with a letter on this issue addressed to the leader of Great Britain's Government.

During the meeting, views were exchanged on the prospects for the withdrawal of the foreign army deployed in Lithuania and on other issues of interest to both countries.

Minister Notes 'Critical' Economic Situation

LD0602164692 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] According to the latest information, approximately 100 of Lithuania's enterprises are working below their total capacity levels because of disrupted supplies from the former Soviet Union.

According to Economics Minister Albertas Simenas, the economic situation may become completely critical in a month or two. He made this statement at today's third meeting of the Special Commission for the Stabilization of the Economic Situation.

During the meeting, most of the news came from precisely those enterprises controlled by the Ministry of Economy and which make up approximately one-half of Lithuania's total industrial production [word indistinct].

Within the ministry's area of responsibility, 57 enterprises are working below their capacity level. Of this number, 17 are engaged in electronics and electric technology production, 15 are involved in machine building and instruments, 10 in chemicals, 10 in wood products, and five in light industry production.

There are 20,000 people, twice the number of those last week, without work in these enterprises—and this is 8 percent of workers within these branches of industry. Many of these are on vacation, but 150 of them have already been laid off.

There are presently three large enterprises at total standstill in Lithuania: the Panevezys Lietkabelis, the imitation leather factory in Plunge, and the Kybartai trade equipment plant.

The heads of certain large enterprises who spoke at the Special Commission meeting for Stabilization of the Economic Situation assessed the situation as very threatening, noting that the agreed supplies from the Ukraine and Russia are halted at the Lithuanian border.

Enterprise leaders believe that the verbal agreements reached last week in Moscow between Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar are being totally ignored in Russia.

The Special Commission for Stabilization of the Economic Situation has decided to present three draft documents to the government. First, a proposal for the establishment of a Reserve Currency Fund for the purchase of raw materials amd material supplies [words indistinct]. Second, it is proposed to establish a Support Fund for Enterprises, and third, to set up a Goods Exchange Fund for [word indistinct] trade.